ABOD Spring In Person Meeting

March 7, 2026

Welcome & Call to Order

- Attendance taken as members arrived.
    - In attendance: Jillian, Brian, Rob, Paul, Brigid, Jane, and Caitlin
    - Online: Luis, Trevor, Michelle
    - Absent with notice: Cassie, Kylee, Maggie, Erica, Vanessa
- Approval of January minutes (no issues noted).

Committee Read-Outs

<u>Reunion & Awards Committee</u>

- Implementing ranked-choice voting for awards.
- Need to standardize nomination blurbs for next cycle and clarify recipient expectations.
- Plan to expand nominations to reunion classes for broader alumni input.
- Motion: utilize rank choice voting w/points system
    - motion approved
- Communication to be sent out on behalf of the Board, Exec team to review - *NOT SURE WHAT THIS WAS.*

<u>Student Success / Engagement Committee</u>

- Met with Tim
- Alumni stories and how SMC helped them go through challenges
- Exploring an informal alumni mentor/helpline directory for quick advice to students
    - student driven
- Begin assessing student demand before building the alumni pool.

<u>Clubs/ Regional Events</u>

- Committee ready to support upcoming events - Rhode Island GC game in July, Red Sox in August, also upcoming Spring Alumni/ new student events

- UPDATE POST MEETING - Here are the events planned so far, with RSVP links to sign up:

  April 15th: Milford, CT (Hosted by John Walkley and Erica Wikstrom)

  - *The Irish Heritage Society, 131 Bridgeport Ave., Milford*
  - *5:30 - 7:30pm*
  - *RSVP: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=062d9b1c-cf7b-4fd8-9d9c-337599d5174b&envId=p-NM8YD3p4XkujCDTu6UcTig&zone=usa*

  April 14th: Hingham, MA (Hosted by AC team - still looking for an alum to underwrite)

  - *Scarlet Oak Tavern, 1217 Main Street, Hingham*
  - *5:30 - 7:30 pm*
  - *RSVP: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=0eef695f-0feb-43bb-b5ca-c1684122f0ed&envId=p-NM8YD3p4XkujCDTu6UcTig&zone=usa*

  April 28th: Canton, MA

  - *Susan and Howie O'Hara's House/ our hosts, 20 Brewer Way, Canton*
  - *5:30 - 7:30 pm*
  - *RSVP: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=4d6585fd-480a-49e6-8abd-3d08eb400e10&envId=p-NM8YD3p4XkujCDTu6UcTig&zone=usa*

  April 30th: Woodcliff Lake, NJ (hosted by Rick Heilmann '81)

  - *300 Tice Blvd - Atrium Lobby, Woodcliff NJ*
  - *5:30 - 7:30 pm*
  - *RSVP: https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=637b47ec-4cbb-44b6-ac88-dfc778dedd87&envId=p-NM8YD3p4XkujCDTu6UcTig&zone=usa*

  Still potential Portland, ME and North of Boston events.....

- Admissions
  - March wave of alumni notecards up next
- Admitted Student Weekend March 27 and 28. Alumni volunteers still needed. Sign up here: Admitted Student Weekend Volunteer Opportunity

Career Connections Debrief

- Very limited student engagement, despite strong alumni and employer turnout. Same day and timing as last year
- Ted Brady '00 great keynote. Recording to be circulated ASAP.
- 20+ alumni employers tabling
- Alumni panelists mostly ABOD with only a few outside additions this year.
- Things to consider for next year
    - Adjust Table talk setup
    - Topics maybe too limited for student conversations
    - Friday timing competed with other activities - event should no longer be on a Friday
    - Condense the day?
    - Internship and summer employment opens up much earlier each year, is Spring too late?
- Consider moving earlier in the semester or to April (better weather, higher engagement).
- Explore off-campus options
- Evolve format to multiple smaller sessions throughout the year.
- Focus on networking with employer tables and keynote all together on a weeknight evening?
- Career Services to lead employer tabling; Alumni Office to focus on speakers/panels.
- ABOD to help with keynote
- Need to improve outreach to sophomores and juniors - part of junior seminar?
- Stephanie to gather additional feedback from campus partners and reconvene the committee.

Old Business: Reunion & Awards Discussion

- Confirmation of ranked-choice voting moving forward.
- Outreach improvements needed:
    - Re-circulate awards candidate form.
    - Ensure all votes submitted this week for plaque production timeline.
- Long-term goals:
    - Create a description of what the award embodies
    - Standardize nomination materials
    - Include what the nominees tie back to SMC
    - Annually distribute nomination form to reunion classes

New Business

Bylaws Update — Article 4, Section 6

- Motion introduced to add:
    - **Current board members are ineligible to be nominated for/receive awards** decided by the board.
    - Approved going forward
- Bylaw updates and vote forthcoming.

ABOD Applications & Membership Planning

- Board encouraged to promote ABOD applications**,** any and all alumni, former athletes, former SGA, former clubs, graduate students, international alumni.
    - ABOD Applications accepted until April 1st : https://smcevents.wufoo.com/forms/s13k8j1w0hzwyk2/ (more on new member application process below
    - Late April ABOD virtual meeting and post meeting voting
- Update post meeting:
- Current board: **13 directors;** Vanessa resigned, 2 class reps 1 student rep, open slots for 2 club reps

Directors: Jillian, Brian, Lauren, Caitlyn, Michelle, Jane, Erica, Rob (terming off in June), Paul, Luis, Trevor, Meredith, Brigid

Class reps: Kylee, Maggie

Student rep: Cassie (who moves into class rep in June)

Club rep: None at the moment.

    - Bylaws allow for up to 17 directors - potential to vote on up to 6 people
        - Rob terms off June 2026
        - 4 open slots
        - 2 club leader slots
- Exec team to meet and draft verbiage to update the Bylaws on when terms start/end
- Stephanie to send all applications before April's virtual vote
    - Update post meeting - Slate of new members will be shared by April 10. Virtual ABOD meeting to discuss candidates on April 16 at 7pm ET -
        - https://smcvt.zoom.us/j/91606585655?pwd=IDxa5CQXSoz9VZ5a73kvXll9mZIzbU.1&from=addon

Meeting ID: 916 0658 5655

Passcode: 656208

Leadership Update (Ellen Kane)

- Deposits:
    - ~100 currently; goal 330–350.
    - Trending slightly above last year's pace.
- Major Admitted Student Weekend upcoming:
    - 70 overnight visitors.
    - Alumni volunteers requested. Admitted Student Weekend Volunteer Opportunity
- Yield Events:
    - Five joint alumni–admissions events beginning April 14 (see above event listing)
- Completed note-writing campaign to admitted students and high school counselors.

- Heidi St. Peter appointed VP of Enrollment Management, bringing 25 years of institutional knowledge.
- Discussion on reorganized academic programs, new majors, and partnerships (including Mass General Hospital).
- WSJ preparing article on small New England colleges; SMC will be featured.
    - Tone uncertain; communications being carefully managed.
    - Board recommended:
        - Preparing formal talking points
        - Possible President Plum message and/or alumni Zoom town hall
        - Addressing alumni directly and trying to minimize the rumor mill

Other

Post meeting update

- Thank you to the various ABOD members who contributed to Senior Week ticket sponsorship. Thanks to everyone generosity, ABOD is funding 8 senior week tickets. 2 will be held back for students with financial hardship, 6 will be raffled off as senior gift participation reaches key levels. A GREAT incentive to get seniors giving back to the college. Thank you thank you thank you!

Upcoming important dates

- April virtual meeting - TBD
- Reunion June 4 - 7
- June - August virtual new member onboarding
- Sept - AFW 9/25-27. Board meeting 9/26 on campus