

Truman State University

Alumni Association Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes for April 5, 2025; 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. CDT



The Board of Directors of the Truman State University Alumni Association met in the Student Union Building on April 5, 2025. President Lori Hart called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

In attendance were Mahlon Barker, Dustin Carmack, Elizabeth Dean, Jeanne Harding, Lori Hart, Jamie Matthews, Alison Mayer and Jules Price. Joining virtually were Brad Borgstede, Ian Delinger and Zach Lepperd. Joining from the Office of Advancement were Rebekah Nelson and Stacy Tucker-Potter.

Lisa Marty motioned approval of the agenda; Jules Price seconded, and the motion passed.

Lisa Marty motioned approval of the October 2024 minutes; Alison Mayer seconded, and the motion passed.

Chapter, Club, At-Large Reports

Iowa is awaiting the new structure to reinvigorate the group. Mahlon is working on band alumni engagement with the hopes of doing something similar to what Brad has done with Greek Alumni.

St. Louis - The Growing Connections event is coming up at the end of April. The Chapter did a Wild Lights at the Zoo event, and they are getting ready to do a volunteer cultivation event.

Kansas City recently held a planning meeting and were happy that they had three new volunteers. The Cardinals/Royals game is scheduled for May 17. They are also hosting a viewing party for an away game for KC Current as well as a KC Symphony event.

Mid-Atlantic - On May 10, they are hosting a Cardinals at Nationals game and are organizing a back to school picnic and book drive in the fall.

Arizona - As Jamie cycles off the board, she is interested in bringing back the annual February brunch event.

NEMO - The chapter sponsored the Gold Medal concert. Alumni participated in the Anthony Ray Hinton Book Club. The Chapter is coordinating the purple flag program and putting up flags for the Truman Experience Weekend. They are partnering to do the same for Special Olympics.

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Greek Alumni - The group is poised and ready for the transition on July 1. Interested in having chairs for different eras of Greeks to help grow the organization.

Indianapolis - As Zach's term concludes, he has some ideas for events in the next year.

Elizabeth Dean provided a student update that Sully Sullenberger will be the Holman Speaker this week. Greek Week just wrapped up, and they raised \$18,500 for Special Olympics and Red Cross.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Reports

President (Hart) - This is her last meeting as president. A lot of hard work has gone into the transition and strategic plan, and we can celebrate our success.

Vice President (Carmack) - Appreciates everyone's help getting the strategic plan. Good discussion about what we want to do and what we are capable of doing.

Secretary (Tucker-Potter) - Membership numbers are in the monthly report. She encouraged everyone to set some ambitious goals to increase this as we move into the new structure. Day of Giving is April 23-24. Matching funds available, and this is a good opportunity to get new donors.

Past President (Matthews) - Foundation Board met in January and did a great alumni event. They are looking to do this in the future. She has been contacting alumni to try to coordinate a Res Life virtual event.

Nominating Committee

Jamie Matthews shared that the nominating committee has received applications for new board members (Annie Hart, Emily Kelchen, Steven Rose and Jonathan Terry). Bios for all were shared in advance of the meeting. The nominating committee presents them

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for consideration. Jeanne Harding motioned for approval of the slate of nominees; Mahlon Barker seconded, and the group was approved.

Dustin Carmack and Elizabeth Dean have completed their first term and are eligible to begin a second term. Beverly Davis, Joyce Gentry, Jeanne Harding and Michelle Mollick have completed their second term and are eligible to serve a third term. Lisa Marty motioned to approve additional terms for the slate; Jules Price seconded, and the motion was approved.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of members to serve as officers: Dustin Carmack, President; Todd Holcomb, Vice President; Steven Rose, Treasurer. Alison Mayer motioned to approve the slate of officers; Lisa Marty seconded, and the motion passed.

Chapter and Club Development Committee

Committee Chair Zach Lepperd reported that Jules Price will be taking over as chair of CCD. The Quarterly Alumni Leaders call is scheduled for 4/28 at 7 p.m. Central. They will be going over the nuts and bolts of the transition as it relates to the chapter and club application process, financial policies, etc.

Programs and Awards Committee

Committee Chair Alison Mayer reported that the group has been talking about TruCare quite a bit and are interested in pursuing a different direction. Nominations are out for Alumni Fellows and Echo 25. Please nominate and encourage nominations. We have selected the book *Women in the Valley of the Kings* by Kathleen Shepperd for the summer book club. It is our first non fiction read, and the final conversation is scheduled for July 24.

Student and University Relations Committee

Committee Chair Jeanne Harding reported that the main two pieces they are working on are internships and the legacy program. They will be doing notecards to accepted students this summer who have been through orientation.



Old Business

A new mission statement is needed to align with the Strategic Plan. The proposed Mission Statement is:

The Truman State University Alumni Association fosters and strengthens lifelong relationships with Truman by connecting alumni to each other, connecting alumni to the University and connecting others to the University.

Mahlon Barker motioned to approve the mission statement; Lisa Marty seconded, and the motion passed.

The draft of the Strategic Plan was shared in advance of the meeting, and the Strategic Plan committee hosted an open house in advance of the meeting to answer any questions. Lisa Marty motioned to approve the strategic plan; Jules Price seconded, and the motion passed.

Lori Hart provided an update from the Alumni Association Transition Committee. We have a marketing approach and surveyed our lifetime members.

Stacy Tucker-Potter provided an update on the Alumni Travel Trip. An ad hoc committee has explored possible alumni trips. The landscape of group travel has changed since the last Truman travel trip in 2019. The committee did not find good options in the price range that our travelers have been accustomed to. In light of that, we have decided not to pursue a travel trip currently.

New Business

The Transition Committee proposed dues for the upcoming fiscal year of \$40 for an individual membership, \$60 for a joint membership, \$20 for a recent grad (1-3 years out) individual and \$40 for a recent grad (1-3 years out) joint membership. Mahlon Barker motioned to approve the dues structure with an additional statement that existing lifetime members be grandfathered in at no charge; Dustin Carmack seconded, and the motion passed.

Resolutions of Appreciation were presented to outgoing board members Father Ian Delinger, Zach Lepperd, Bernee Long, Lisa Marty and Jamie Matthews.

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Lori Hart reminded everyone that we have our summer check-in on Zoom and asked people to fill out the Summer check-in scheduling form to give us a sense of who can attend.

President Thomas provided a University update. She provided an update on enrollment and highlighted Foundation funded initiatives to help recruit students. The state budget projects a 1.5% increase and additional one-time money for maintenance and repairs. Cindy O'Laughlin is proposing money in the state budget for Greenwood while we await federal funding. We submitted requests for federal funding that would also allow the campus to provide shelter to the community in times of natural disaster. There is a search committee for the new Vice President for University Advancement that includes Lori Hart.

David Clithero provided an update from the Foundation Board. Results through the end of February shows that we are up in many donor categories. A scholarship coordinator was just hired to help address gaps in our scholarship process. Day of Giving is April 23-24. There are also campaign efforts going before the Board of Governors related to Baldwin Auditorium renovations and an upgrade to the Kennels athletics facilities. There are two upcoming alumni events, one is a Kansas City legal event and the other is a business leaders event in St. Louis. Jason Turk and Advancement have analyzed the registration list and found that many of these have never been engaged with the University. There is a lot of opportunity to grow these in the future.

The next meeting of the Alumni Board will be Friday, October 17, 2025.

There being no additional business, Jules Price motioned to adjourn; Lisa Marty seconded, and the motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m.