**Alumni Board of Directors – Fall 2024 Meeting**

**Saturday, September 21
Meeting Notes**

**GENERAL**

* New members Erica Dempsey, Lauren Boucher and Meredith Zappert were welcomed to their first ABOD meeting.
* [Updated bylaws](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Ilisn320Kyr52AwdoHtqUDAV_SVTwMS7J8kaJHhH5ZI/edit?usp=sharing) were approved. Key changes include: (1) expanding the Board membership process; (2) modernizing the notification provisions; and (3) general updates for clarity.
	+ To be published on the ABOD page on SMC website.
	+ New membership process will involve alumni applications as well as ABOD and IA staff recommendations
		- Once the application is created IA will promote via email, PK Pulse e-newsletter and the LinkedIn Alumni group.
		- New applicants will be reviewed at the Spring meetings
* Other thoughts shared on our meetings/structure:
	+ Be mindful of East Coast bias when booking meetings
	+ Alumni of the Year award nominees will be voted on separately vs. a slate going forward, with votes received prior to the Spring ABOD meeting.
		- Criteria refresher and why each candidate is nominated will be included
	+ ABOD meetings are open to all alumni to attend. IA will publish on the SMC event calendar with direction to email Stephanie on details on how to participate.
	+ Update of ABOD quick guide for member roles and responsibilities.
		- Vanessa, Kylee, Brigid and Rob agree to tackle the update. Once complete we will post on the ABOD section of the SMC website.
* ABOD would like to hear from Rob Robinson for an update on college financials (similar to the Fall 2023 meeting update Rob shared). Stephanie/ IA to schedule a Zoom meeting with Rob and ABOD members.

**STUDENT EXPERIENCE UPDATE with Kerri Leach**

* Rugby situation reviewed. Still a club sport. Previous budget issues will not happen again.
* Club budgets are much less than in the past. Must ensure that funds are distributed equitably.
* New student sports and recreation council started last spring to ensure club sport oversight.
* SGA established a “Beloved Community” fund. $20k allocated for programming, events and experiences to assist clubs with special projects focused on diversity, equity and inclusion
* Turtle Underground is in jeopardy – they have lost their identity, working to find other outlets for student musicians.
* Student engagement continues to be a struggle post-Covid
* An alumni table at on-campus sporting events would increase ABOD visibility and access.
* The BIPOC student/alumni event in 2022 was well received. Would be great to host a similar event again.

**STATE OF THE COLLEGE/ ENROLLMENT with President Plumb and VP of Admissions, Brigid Lawler**

* The college has not done well promoting itself over the last 10 years. We are a “hidden gem” and can’t stay hidden anymore.
* VP of Mission position created – Fr. Theroux holds the post. $3M endowed position, ensuring long-term safeguard of Edmundite charism on campus.
* Students are looking for safety, cost, fit/belonging, and a quality education with a high ROI/job placement post grad.
* We are right-sizing the college. We will be a college of 1,200 students going forward. “Cliff” of HS-aged students is here, along with a heated debate on the value of higher education.
* New England is our backyard, but that market is not growing. Population across the region is declining so the pool of students will be smaller for the foreseeable future. We need to look at emerging markets like DC, NC and beyond for prospective students.
* Admissions will also be heavily cultivating Sophomores and Juniors in HS this Spring. Summer SMC programs are a great taste of St. Mike’s for new students, too,
* Leadership is working on an elevator pitch for the college. St. Mike’s educates students to navigate the complexity of the modern world with skill, professionalism and empathy.
* Academics will be re-organized into four main buckets, with the Institutes serving as learning laboratories for ALL majors:



* Two presidential task forces are evaluating college operations and programs:
	+ Transformation Task Force: Look at everything on campus (minus academics) and bucket everything into three categories: essential, nice to have/ ties in, no longer works.
	+ Faculty Task Force: Full academic program review, working within four buckets above. Reevaluating majors and minors and additional major/minor opportunities to determine path forward

**CAREER SYMPOSIUM DISCUSSION**

* Collaborative efforts with the BCEC from day one. A BCEC team member will be present at every panel, potentially as an ancillary panelist.
* Evolving the event this year to run during the day and include a job fair component.
* Consider a new name that resonates more with students and reflects the evolved program – also more of a hook; “networking in action,” “careers in the real world,” “alumni advice and networking event” …
* Day after the event, ABOD to host students at a fun event, including any panelists that stays over, for casual connections – adventure sports? MOVE? Other?
* **Proposed Date**: Friday, 3/7 (snow date could be Monday, 3/10, or virtual options?
* Earlier in the semester to allow students to engage in summer internships and post-grad work.
	+ Work with SMC leadership and faculty senate to prioritize this event. The aim is for professors to allow students to attend the symposium in place of class and receive class credit. IA and ABOD reps will also attend the December all faculty meeting to announce.
* Event location – consider hosting on all three floors of Dion or in Alliot. More central and in the hub of student activity.
* **Need 2 POCs from ABOD**

**Event Enhancements:**

 **Mini Career Fair:**

* Engage BCEC to identify alumni with current internship and employment opportunities.
* Activate corporate sponsors to underwrite event costs.

 **Topics and Panels:**

* Limit topics to a max of five; students choose three to participate in.
	+ - Conduct a student survey to gather preferred topics
			* Offer a raffle prize (e.g., $25 Dunkin' cards) to incentivize survey completion.
		- Based on survey results, reach out to alumni for panelists with relevant experience.
		- Also, invite faculty to participate as panelists as appropriate.
	+ Use various channels for panelist recruitment, including:
* “Call for panelists” email with a submission form, LinkedIn post, ABOD networking leads, BCEC alumni leads and Winter SMC Magazine mention for promotion and panelist recruitment

 **Proposed Schedule:**

10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Mini Career Fair in Alliot/ Lunch

1:00 PM - Keynote (ABOD approved asking George Sherman, former GameStop CEO and new trustee)

1:30 PM – 2:30 PM: Panel Session #1

2:30 PM – 3:00 PM: Break/ Student Interviews with Career Fair Leaders (or skip and allow for more time for keynote?

2:30 PM – 3:30 PM: Panel Session #2

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM: Panel Session #3

4:30 - 6:00 PM: Networking reception with students and alumni. President Plumb as special guest.

6:00 PM: Panelist dinner with the President Plumb?

**UPCOMING DATES**

* Saturday, November 2 – ABOD Check-in Meeting - Via Zoom, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Meeting invite forthcoming)
* Friday, March 7 – Career Symposium all day on campus
* Saturday, March 8 – ABOD Spring Meeting – in person meeting/ Pomerleau Conference Room 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
* May 11 – Commencement
* June 6 – 8, 2025 Reunion Weekend
* Sept 19 – 21, 2025 Alumni and Family Weekend