Affinity Leadership Council Meeting

August 10, 2026 5pm – 6pm Zoom

Governing Board Members in Attendance: Samuel Fredeking, Stan Anderson, Amy Hunter, LaVell Monger, Ryan Frisch

Staff Members in Attendance: Lisa Capone, Jennifer Jezek-Taussig, Kevin Smith

Welcome Samuel Fredeking, Chair

Samuel Fredeking called the meeting to order and welcomed members of the Alumni Leadership Council.

Strategic Direction Lisa Capone, Interim ED

Lisa Capone provided an overview of the strategic direction and organizational changes being implemented to strengthen alumni engagement and affinity group alignment with university, campaign, and college priorities. For this first meeting only Board of Director committee members participated to review and adopt the Affinity Group charges. In future meetings, Affinity Group chairs will also be invited to participate as members of the committee.

The proposed changes are informed by extensive feedback gathered across the University, industry benchmarking and research, and a broader effort to enhance alumni engagement started with the change in bylaws and audit of work starting two years ago. Advancement staff are working more closely with college deans and campus leadership to identify opportunities where alumni involvement can advance institutional goals and deepen engagement. Beginning this year and moving forward, staff will develop the annual engagement calendar and supporting financial budget - intentionally incorporating affinity groups into those plans to ensure alignment and collaboration. This is a key departure from previous years where affinity group chairs informed the staff of their event support and budget requirements.

The committee reviewed the proposed organizational structure, recognized vacancies to fill. The importance of assigning a dedicated University liaison to each affinity group was emphasized as a means of strengthening communication, support, and accountability.

Review ALC Purpose and Procedures Samuel Fredeking, Chair

Discussion focused on improving the annual meeting timeline and purpose of the committee. Members noted that future strategic planning discussions and meetings will occur earlier in the summer to allow communications with affinity group chairs to be distributed during by early August, rather than later in the month as the semester begins.

Review Affinity Group Leadership & Committee Rosters Lisa Capone, Interim ED

Affinity Group committee rosters and events were discussed with a note of any vacancies that needed further attention. Ideas about ensuring multi-generational committee representation and introducing cross collaboration among affinity groups were discussed as goals and priorities for the committee. It was also noted that inviting individuals to serve as affinity group volunteers is a key opportunity to build the volunteer leadership pipeline for the future.

Action Items:

1. Committee members will submit their own nominations for affinity group chair or membership and send to Lisa by August 14^{th}.
2. Staff will establish a list of recommendations (internal and external nominations) to fill identified vacancies for affinity group committee rosters.
3. A final list will be provided to the Committee including recommendations for who will make an initial introduction for this volunteer opportunity.
4. An onboarding plan will need to be developed for new Affinity Group volunteers (each affinity group having a slightly different approach based on need).
5. Staff will schedule meetings with chairs and staff liaisons of affinity groups, prioritizing groups with immediate next steps are identified for the Fall semester. At least one ALC committee member may be asked to attend the meeting (in August).
6. Staff will identify key events to take part in and put those forward to ALC Board members to review and choose to attend throughout the year.

Conclusion and Adjournment Samuel Fredeking, Chair