



Affinity Leadership Council Meeting

August 10, 2026

5:00-6:00 PM

[Zoom Link](#)

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|------|---|-------------------------|
| I. | Welcome | Samuel Fredeking, Chair |
| II. | Strategic Direction | Lisa Capone, Interim ED |
| | a. Revised Affinity Group Guidelines | |
| III. | Review ALC Purpose and Procedures | Samuel Fredeking, Chair |
| IV. | Review Affinity Group Leadership & Committee Rosters | Lisa Capone, Interim ED |
| | a. Recruitment of new chairs and/or committee members | |
| | b. Sign up for Board of Director ALC Members to attend meetings with Affinity Group Chairs and Interim ED | |
| V. | Conclusion and Adjournment | Samuel Fredeking, Chair |

Attachments:

Revised Affinity Group Guidelines

ALC Purpose and Procedures

Affinity Group Leadership Grid

UMSL Alumni Association

Alumni Affinity Groups

Guidelines

Alumni Affinity Groups are UMSL Alumni Association organized communities that bring together alumni of a specific school, college or shared interest. The purpose of alumni affinity groups is to increase alumni engagement in service to their college/unit, to current students, and to the University in general. Examples include but are not limited to the following:

- To provide coordinated opportunities for all alumni to interact meaningfully with the University and its activities, thus facilitating information sharing about the University and its programs within that group's particular area of study and/or interest.
- Professional development and networking with other alumni (industry panels, career support.
- Creating a pool of volunteer leaders for university, college or unit liaisons to utilize in support of affinity group activities or strategic work of the university.
- To serve as ambassadors of UMSL by sharing the positive impact that the University has on the local, regional and national communities.
- To support students currently attending (or interested in attending) through formal and/or informal mentoring opportunities. Affinity Groups are encouraged to volunteer for Dining with Tritons or similar, to participate in a student club/organization event, to speak to classes as needed and to volunteer for other relevant opportunities as they are presented.
- To celebrate and recognize the impact of volunteering and philanthropy, thus encouraging more alumni to get engaged in ways that enhance University priorities.

Coordinating these activities (typically one to two annually) are important for managing resources (both staff time and budget), ensuring higher turnout and participation, and having meaningful alignment and outcomes for the Affinity Group activities that positively impact the needs of both the alumni and University. The following outlines the guidelines for planning and coordinating activities annually.

Activities beyond events are an important aspect of Affinity Group work.

1. Each Alumni Affinity Group may have one university liaison identified by the Executive Director to help inform priorities.
2. The Executive Director will meet with the university liaison at the beginning of the fiscal year to discuss top alumni volunteer and engagement priorities and draft a proposed calendar of activities, noting all-alumni activities where promotion and attendance by Affinity Groups are encouraged.

3. The Executive Director will assemble all Affinity Group proposed activity calendars and associated budgets into a single document for review by the Governance Committee and ALC.
4. The Executive Director will work with the ALC Chair to share strategy and create an implementation plan for calendar of activities with the Affinity Group chair (or co-chair).
5. Affinity Group Chair and Steering Committee work with the Director and/or Assistant Director as assigned to implement plans within budget and meet activity metrics.

Affinity Group Chairs and Steering Committee

Each Affinity Group Steering Committee should have one leader (chair) that serves on the Affinity Leadership Council (Board Committee). There should also be a vice chair for when the chair is unable to attend/run meetings. Each serves a concurrent two-year term. Each Affinity Group may have a Steering Committee with up to four additional members.

Officers and members of Affinity Groups are identified by the Executive Director with input from the ALC Chair and Affinity Group Chair and Vice Chair. Where multiple candidates are viable, a slate of candidates will be given to the ALC Chair to recommend a selection to the Governance Committee. Affinity Group steering committees should meet twice annually to plan activities and assign volunteer roles. Affinity Group meetings will be staffed by the Director or Assistant Director as assigned. Meeting agendas will be created or approved by the Assistant Director and Chair(s). Quorums are not necessary for an affinity group meeting as these groups do not have a voting component.

Affinity Group Approval and Recognition

Alumni Affinity Groups are recognized by the Alumni Association Governing Board through an annual review and recommendation process conducted by the Executive Director in coordination with the Governance Committee of the Governing Board.

Affinity Leadership Council Purpose and Procedures

Affinity Leadership Council

- The Affinity Leadership Council is chaired by the Vice President of the Board.
- Affinity Leadership Council members include 3 Board members and the leader (1) or co-leaders (2) of each officially recognized alumni affinity group.
- The Affinity Leadership Council is responsible for the following:
 - ❑ Ensure Association and University alumni engagement strategic direction and annual goals are known and adopted by the affinity group leaders and communicated to members of the affinity group steering committee to facilitate program alignment.
 - ❑ Review, evaluate, and confirm program alignment of affinity groups to stated strategic direction and annual goals in coordination with the Executive Director on an annual basis.
 - ❑ Review and confirm affinity groups comply with organization bylaws and other policies and laws where applicable annually.
 - ❑ Conduct a minimum of two meetings annually.
- Affinity Leadership Council meeting topics and agenda are drafted by the Executive Director and confirmed by the Vice President (chair). The final agenda and any materials necessary for advance review must be sent to committee members at least 3 business days prior to the meeting.
- The Assistant Director shall take minutes of the Affinity Leadership Council meetings, provide them to the Executive Director, and upload them into the Association electronic portal within 5 business days of the meeting.

General Guidelines

The following are general guidelines for the timing of required topics and duties:

August 10, 2026

- Chair communicates strategic direction and annual goals of the Association and university's alumni engagement strategy to affinity group leaders.
- Executive Director communicates specific alumni engagement goals and requests from university partners (i.e. Deans or Directors) to affinity group leaders for use in program planning.
- Review and confirm affinity group program calendar and budget for year.
- Conduct an orientation for new affinity group leaders and members of the Affinity Leadership Council if needed.
- Review terms for Affinity Group chairs and Steering Committee members to plan for Fall/Winter nomination process to fill following year vacancies.

January 13, 2027

- Review affinity group programs and goal attainment year-to-date and plan for or assess changes for Spring semester programming.
- Review Spring semester calendar of activities and strategies.

- Review and confirm affinity group budget is on track for fiscal year.
- Discuss future work and goals of committee for review and assessment during the fiscal year planning process in Spring.

Roster

Name	Group
Samuel Fredeking, Chair	VP of Board of Directors
Ryan Frisch, Treasurer	Board Committee Member
Stan Anderson	Board Committee Member
Amy Hunter	Board Committee Member
LaVell Monger	Board Committee Member
Lisa Capone, Ex-Officio	Board Committee Member
VACANT- ASSESS	African American Alumni Chapter
Stan Anderson	Business
Michael Finkes - ASSESS	Chemistry
Clark Hickmann - ASSESS	Education
Clark Hickmann	Retirees Association
Semir Vasvovic - ASSESS	Engineering
Chelesa Holden	Social Work
Cassie Bianculli	Supply Chain

Staff Liaisons

Title	Name
AVC & Executive Director	Lisa Capone, Interim
Director, Alumni Engagement	VACANT
Assistant Director, Alumni Engagement	Kevin Smith

UMSL Alumni Association FY27 Alumni Affinity Groups

African American Alumni Chapter FY27

Chair	TBD
Co-Chair	TBD
University Liaison	TBD
Committee Roster:	Debra Tolliver-Nash, Linda Brown Reed, Sharon Holbrooks, Mark Anthony Jones, Shirley Harvey, Petra Baker, Edward Scruggs, Mildred Simmons, Michael Taylor, one more

Related Events

Date/Month	Event	Registration Volunteers	Speakers	Guest Engagement	Audience
February	Black in St. Louis	X		X	All Alumni

Chemistry Alumni Affinity Group FY27

Chair	Michael Finkes
Co-Chair	TBD
University Liaison	Keith Stine, Department Chair
Committee Roster:	Joe Bono, Michael Houser, Pat Armbruster, Timothy Miller, Bruce Ritts, Gregory Webb, Lol Barton

Related Events

Date/Month	Event	Registration Volunteers	Speakers	Guest Engagement	Audience
November 12	Harris Center Conservation Forum Pre-Reception	X		X	Science Alumni

Ed G. Smith College of Business Affinity Group FY27

Chair	Stan Anderson
Co-Chair	TBD
University Liaison	Shu Schiller, Dean
Committee Roster	Need to recruit – list of prospects includes Carter Cassel, Ralph McNeal

Related Events

Date/Month	Event	Registration Volunteers	Speakers	Guest Engagement	Audience
September	Accounting Alumni Recruiter Event & Networking Reception			X	Accounting Alumni
October	Dining with Tritons: Triton Business Scholars (w/ specific RISE Academy)				Specific
October	NABA Panel		X		3-4 Business Professionals
November	Finance Career Conference				Specific
February	Alumni Pre-Reception: Beta Alpha Psi Student Awards				All Business Alums
March	Student Pitch Competition			X	3-4 Business Alums
April	DBA Weekend				TBD
April	International Business alumni-to- student program		X	X	3-4 Int'l Business alum professionals
May	Salute to Business Celebration	X		X	TBD

College of Education Alumni Affinity Group FY27

Chair	Clark Hickmann
Co-Chair	Helene Sherman
University Liaison	Marius Boboc, Dean
Committee Roster	To Be Recruited

Related Events

Date/ Month	Event	Registration Volunteers	Speakers	Guest Engagement	Audience
October	Panel: The State of Public Education, featuring UMSL alumni superintendents			X	All Education Alumni
March	UMSL Educators Spotlight: Blitz over 2 days (Boboc on-site in schools)				Specific
April	C.A.M.P. 2027 (Counseling Alumni & Students Mixing w/Community Partners)			X	Counseling Alumni
May	Education Annual Conference	X		X	All Education Alumni

Engineering Alumni Affinity Group FY27

Chair	Semir Vajzovic
Co-Chair	Ellen Prinster
University Liaison	George Nnanna, Director; Jody O'Sullivan JEP
Roster:	Need to recruit – list of prospects includes Greg Helton

Related Events

Date/Month	Event	Registration Volunteers	Speakers	Guest Engagement	Audience
November	UMSL Explore Engineering Day				3-4 Engineering Alumni
March	Pi Day Celebration				2-3 Engineering Alumni
March	Engineering Reunion VIP Reception at Pi Day Celebration			X	All Engineering Alumni
June	Engineering Summer Camp				2-4 Engineering Alumni

Social Work Alumni Affinity Group FY27

Chair	Chelesa Holden
Co-Chair	TBD
University Liaison	Sharon Johnson, Dean
Roster:	Need to recruit – build list of prospects

Related Events

Date/Month	Event	Registration Volunteers	Speakers	Guest Engagement	Audience
August	New School Announcement Blitz – School of Social Work, Psychological and Brain Sciences			Social media ambassadors needed	

September	CEU-supported engagement				All Social Work Alumni
May	Student & Alumni Awards, Alumni of the Year Award			X	TBD

Supply Chain Alumni Affinity Group FY27

Chair	Cassie Bianculli
Co-Chair	Andrew Baer
University Liaison	Jill Bernard Bracy, Director of the Supply Chain Center of Excellence
Roster:	Derrick Freeman, Jarret Sullivan, Christopher Mondy, Peyton Gallagher, David Swiercek, Amber Gergen, Katie Loomis, Ini Abejide

Related Events

Date/Month	Event	Registration Volunteers	Speakers	Guest Engagement	Audience
November	Supply Chain Networking Social	X		X	All Supply Chain Alumni, UMSL Alumni SC professionals
March/April	Supply Chain & Analytic Research Symposium				All Supply Chain Alumni, UMSL Alumni SC professionals

Other:

Retirees Association

Retirees Association Holiday Luncheon (December)

Retirees Association Annual Business Meeting & Spring Luncheon (June)

Recent Groups:

- DBA
- Honors College
- Political Science