



University
of Vermont
Foundation

Alumni Association

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT FOUNDATION
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES September 25, 2025

A meeting of the Alumni Association Board of Directors of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Foundation, Inc. was held on Thursday, September 25, 2025 at 1:30 PM in the UVM Alumni House - Silver Pavilion and via Zoom.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael Brown, Emily Carr, Renee Cruise, Sara Fritsch, Max Greenberg, Sarah Madey, Susan Marchand Higgins, Sarah Lenex, Justin Martin, Rowen Martin, Sophie Meyer, Deb Mignucci, Claire Julianelle, Cathy Tremblay, Rick Vargas, Sanjeev Yadav

MEMBERS PARTICIPATING VIA ZOOM: Jai Chanda, Lisa Kanter, and Adam Levy

UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE: Will Oliver

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Kathleen Kelleher, Maddie Ritter, Sydney Rybicki, Dan LeClair, Erin Murphy, Rally Catamount (mascot)

President Deb Mignucci called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM after attendance was taken and a quorum was established.

Welcome Remarks

Deb Mignucci welcomed the group, thanked everyone for joining in-person or via zoom. She extended a special welcome to Kathleen Kelleher, Interim President & CEO of the UVM Foundation, volunteer leaders and members of the UVM Foundation staff, special guest, Lina Balcom, Director of Student Life, and UVM mascot, Rally Catamount. She reminded participants that the meeting is a matter of public record and asked the board if there were any requested changes or additions to the noticed agenda, which there were not. The complete board packet was sent via email. The work that the Board has done since the last meeting in April is impressive. She commented on how informative and impressive the board

packet looked, and noted that the forthcoming Alumni House Blend Open House series looked particularly exciting. Deb ended by thanking former President, Cathy Tremblay, and Sarah Lenés and her amazing staff before posing an icebreaker-type question to all board members: “What was the most meaningful way you were/are involved on campus as an undergraduate student?” Board members answered the question in order of seat location.

Review and approval of April 10, 2025 meeting minutes

Draft copies of the minutes from our April 10, 2025 full-board meeting were included in the packet of materials. The minutes of the April 10, 2025 Alumni Association Board Meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and the Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented. Each year the Governance Committee reviews the Alumni Association Charter. A recommendation was made to the Foundation Board of Directors to change the name of a subcommittee. The suggested edit to the Alumni Charter is a name change that reflects the board’s continued alignment with the university: DEI Committee to Intercultural Excellence Committee.

UVM Foundation Team Update (Sarah Lenés)

Sarah Lenés, Assistant Vice President of Alumni Relations, provided an update from the UVM Foundation Team. Sarah’s presentation highlighted how the foundation’s affinity model helps to demonstrate impact through the engagement score and thus helps to drive the donor pipeline.

UVM Weekend Update

Susan Higgins mentioned highlights for the forthcoming UVM Weekend, formerly known as Reunion, Parents Weekend, Fall Weekend, October Weekend, etc. which was rebranded in 2021 to highlight and enhance the University of Vermont. There are over 45 programs offered to alumni, families and community members. New to the weekend this year, is Rally’s Rally, which will take place on Saturday, September 27th, on the athletic campus prior to the Men’s Soccer game. Highlights of this event include but are not limited to, academic open houses, bounce houses, student tabling, food trucks, beer garden, and music by student radio station, WRUV. Susan noted that UVM Weekend, in particular, Rally’s Rally, could not have happened without the outstanding partnership between the Alumni Relations team and the Division of Student Life.

Campus Highlights

Lina Balcom, Director of Student Life, was a guest speaker. Lina spoke about the role of Student Life on campus. She emphasized that the majority of meaning for students comes from places outside of the classroom. Lina’s team is responsible for

hosting many signature events per year, including, Activities Fest, Fall Fest, Fright Week, Rallython, and Spring Fest. Lina noted that her team is particularly proud of the fact that all activities/events are student-driven. The priority for her team is to have a few high-quality events versus a larger quantity of events per year. Lina's team advises the SGA and she emphasized the importance of their partnership with the Student Alumni Association and the Alumni Association. Finally, Lina noted that moving forward, Senior Week will be jointly planned and executed by the Alumni Relations team and Lina's team. Several of the board members had questions for Lina following her remarks.

Committee Highlights

Deb noted that moving forward, the board meetings will feature a rotation of updates and action items from committee chairs. Claire, Jai and Adam were part of this meeting's rotation.

a. Awards (Claire Julianelle '18)

Claire thanked Lina for all of the work that she and her team do to support SAA. Claire announced that nominations are officially open for the Alumni Association Awards. A clipboard was passed around to board members to allow folks to jot down names. Claire mentioned the forthcoming Celebrating Excellence event this evening and shared the names of the alumni being recognized for their achievements. The Kidder Lecture and Award reception took place on September 10 and was a huge success. Claire noted that partnership with Alumni Relations team member, Maddie Ritter, has been immensely helpful. Claire ended with an action item: ramping up outreach this fall for the 30 Under 30 and 8 Over 80 alumni recognitions, with the hopes of expanding the pool.

b. Admissions (Jai Chanda '92)

Jai highlighted the 600 alumni admissions volunteers that help recruit future catamounts to UVM by writing congratulatory notes, attending college fairs, and attending admitted student receptions. Jai presented statistics about the Refer-A-Catamount program, and he posed a goal for AABOD: 100% participation in the Refer-A-Catamount program among board members.

c. Career Services (Adam Levy '98)

Adam reminded board members of the purpose and the expectations of the Career Services Committee. He noted many highlights and accomplishments of the committee for the year, including over 19,000 registered users on UVM Connect. Moving forward, action steps for the committee are focused around pushing UVM

Connect across all avenues. Adam ended by encouraging all AABOD members to register for UVM Connect.

Wrap Up

Due to another meeting President Mignucci asked Vice President Susan Higgins to close the meeting.

Susan congratulated Board Member Sara Fritsch on her 25th Class Reunion.

Susan encouraged the board to attend the Celebrating Excellence program later tonight, and Rally's Rally on Saturday, September 27. She also noted that board members could see Sarah Lenos or Erin Murphy if they are interested in attending the Men's Soccer game on Saturday and need tickets.

Susan mentioned that details will be forthcoming about the university's strategic plan and the Town Hall.

The next Alumni Association Board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Susan declared the meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM.