

UC Irvine Alumni

UC Irvine Alumni Association 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 27, 2024

6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Beckman Center

I. Welcome Remarks and Call to Order – Derek Sabori '96, MBA '02

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

- President Derek Sabori officially called the meeting to order and extended a warm welcome to all attendees at the UC Irvine Alumni Association's Annual Meeting. He began by introducing himself in his role as the current President of the Association and expressed sincere gratitude to everyone for taking the time to participate. Derek acknowledged that the presence of so many alumni at the meeting was a testament to the strength, connection, and enduring spirit of the Anteater community.
- In his opening remarks, Derek highlighted the significance of the gathering as a meaningful opportunity for alumni to reconnect with one another, reflect on the achievements and progress made over the past year, and look ahead to the future with a sense of shared purpose. He underscored the essential role that alumni continue to play in supporting and shaping UC Irvine's legacy and growth.
- Following his welcome, Derek provided an overview of the evening's agenda. The meeting would begin with the Association's annual business session, during which official matters would be addressed. Attendees would also review the Annual Report, featuring key milestones and accomplishments from the past year. In addition, the Association would take time to recognize the dedication and contributions of board members and volunteers whose efforts had been instrumental to the year's success. The evening would conclude with a special guest presentation highlighting UCI's innovative Engineering+ model, which exemplifies the university's commitment to collaboration across education, research, and partnerships.

II. Acceptance of the 2023 Annual Meeting minutes - Derek Sabori '96, MBA '02

Motion: To accept the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes of the UCI Alumni Association. (First) Laura Gomez '94 , (Second) Carolyn Brothers '78

Vote: Passed unanimously

IV. Recognition of the Board members ending their term – Derek Sabori '96, MBA '02

- Melissa recognized eight incredible board members who have completed their term. The board members who have completed their service were: Melissa Beck '12 (Immediate Past President), Lynn Hemans '98 (Treasurer), Laura Yeager '86

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(Secretary), Omead Afshar '09, Mike Arias '11, Rachel Fine '94, Ferial Govashiri '07 Harry Le Grande '75.

- The chapter representatives who have completed their service this year are Rabi Narula '92, Tony Ortiz '98, Catherine Zhou '04.
- The non-voting representatives who have completed their service this year are Toby Woodward '19, Zoe Miller-Vedam '22, Jun Jang, Morgan Rajala '24.
- The Young Alumni Council, a great group of anteaters who have graduated in the last decade, also have five members who have completed their service: Elizabeth Beach '12, Brittany Bonilla '18, Brianna Chew '19, Justin Na '19, Raj Parekh '19.
- Derek also recognized the many alumni chapters that contribute meaningfully to the strength and vibrancy of the Anteater network. Attendees were reminded of the dozens of alumni chapters represented at the event, with displays set up outside the venue. These chapters are led by hundreds of dedicated volunteer leaders whose efforts have had a profound impact on building and sustaining a connected Anteater community. Special thanks were extended to chapter members who are concluding their service, in recognition of their valuable contributions.

V. Installation of new board members – Derek Sabori '96, MBA '02

- The nominations committee, chaired by Laura Yeager, worked diligently to engage candidates for the alumni board with diversity across class year, school, industry, ethnicity, degrees, and types of student experiences. The committee has nominated five new board candidates who will bring great, passion experience and perspective to the board to further UCIAA's mission. These outstanding new board candidates include:
 - Directors: Masood '05, Charla Batey '07, David Fanous '03, Ricardo Hernandez '99, Claudia Keller '87, Michael O'Heany '86, Melissa Patterson '03
 - Chapter Representatives: Silva Karageozian '93, Diane Kim '83, Christine Tu '00

Motion: To accept the 2024-2025 UCI Alumni Association Board of Directors slate as presented. (First) Harry Le Grande '75, (Second) Steve Acterman '86

Vote: Passed unanimously

VI. Associate Vice Chancellor's report on the 2023-2024 year- Shante Carter

- Associate Vice Chancellor Shante Carter welcomed attendees and thanked outgoing board members for their service, expressing appreciation for their dedication and advocacy on behalf of the Alumni Association. She warmly welcomed incoming board members and emphasized the exciting work ahead to advance key goals and initiatives.
- Shante acknowledged Vice Chancellor Brian Hervey for his steadfast support, which allows the Alumni Association to stay focused on its core mission: serving UCI alumni. She also recognized the Alumni Association staff team, applauding their behind-the-scenes efforts in navigating policy, budgets, and deadlines to deliver meaningful alumni engagement. Attendees were encouraged to connect with team members after the meeting.

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- She reaffirmed the Association's mission to enrich alumni lives and support their lifelong connection to UC Irvine. Shante noted that this relationship continues beyond graduation, through volunteerism, events, global chapters, and partnerships with the campus and community.
- Key achievements from the past year were highlighted, including \$196,000+ in scholarships awarded, over 100 events hosted, the launch of the "Connect the Zots" regional engagement initiative, and expanded nationwide service during Anteaters in Service Day. These milestones were detailed in the Association's Impact Report, accessible via QR code.
- Shante also spotlighted UCI's Brilliant Future Campaign, which includes an engagement goal of 75,000 uniquely engaged alumni—of which over 66,000 have already been reached. She emphasized this target as both a benchmark and a call to deepen alumni involvement in the university's future.
- To close, she previewed upcoming events, including the 5th annual Anteaters in Service Day, the 53rd Lauds & Laurels alumni awards, and Kababayan's 50th reunion. She encouraged attendees to stay involved, then introduced the evening's special guest speaker, Dr. Magnus Egerstedt, Dean of the Samueli School of Engineering, whose leadership reflects UCI's innovative and interdisciplinary spirit.

VII. Special Guest Speaker: Magnus Egerstedt, Stacey Nicholas Dean of Engineering

- Dean Egerstedt provided an overview of the Samueli School of Engineering's strategic direction, highlighting its new initiative, *Engineering+*, which emphasizes the school's commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration, societal impact, and educational innovation. This initiative reflects a shift beyond traditional engineering, incorporating partnerships across fields such as public policy and the arts, notably with the Claire Trevor School of the Arts.
- He shared his personal and professional background, noting his early studies in philosophy and linguistics in Sweden, and his career in robotics at institutions such as Berkeley, Harvard, and Georgia Tech, where he founded and led one of the nation's largest robotics institutes. His experiences have shaped his belief that modern engineering must be collaborative and outward-facing—focused on addressing global challenges through interdisciplinary teamwork.
- At UC Irvine, he was drawn to the university's ambition, collaborative spirit, and opportunity for innovation. He described UCI as a "young university" with a unique ability to shape its own future, free from traditional constraints. The Samueli School currently enrolls nearly 5,000 students, including 600 Ph.D. candidates, and is distinguished by its diversity: 35% of its students are first-generation, nearly 30% are underrepresented minorities, and 39% of this year's incoming class are women—exceptional figures in engineering education.
- He also highlighted the school's growing research enterprise, noting increases in sponsored research funding and upward movement in national rankings—currently 31st overall and top 15 among public institutions. He credited this progress to strategic faculty recruitment, especially strong cohorts of junior faculty earning major national accolades.
- Dean Egerstedt concluded by expressing enthusiasm for UCI's trajectory and the vital role alumni and supporters play in sustaining the university's momentum.

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VIII. Adjournment – Derek Sabori '96, MBA '02

- Derek opened by expressing appreciation to Dean Egerstedt and reflected on his own academic journey, noting that had EngineeringPlus existed during his time, he might have pursued it, though he is satisfied with his Studio Art degree. He invited others to share if they had also switched majors during their studies. Derek then extended his sincere gratitude to all attendees, emphasizing that their dedication and support have been crucial to the continued growth and impact of the alumni community over the past year.
- Reflecting on the accomplishments of the year, Derek highlighted key achievements including the expansion of alumni programs, the launch of innovative digital platforms, an enhanced commitment to philanthropy, improved communication efforts, and the recognition of outstanding alumni. These milestones, he noted, are a testament to the collective efforts and enduring spirit of the Anteater community, while underscoring that there remains important work ahead. He framed the evening as both a celebration of past successes and a forward-looking moment for the future. Derek congratulated the UCIAA team on another successful year and invited attendees to enjoy refreshments after the meeting. He also encouraged everyone to visit the alumni information booths outside to learn more about chapters, events, membership, and the Anteater Network as ways to engage further with the campus community.

**Motion: To adjourn the 2023 Annual Meeting of the UCI Alumni Association
(First: Lee Exton '87, Second: Lindsay Miller '08)**

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly Vo
Strategic Analyst, Alumni Relations and Board Operations

Minutes approved by:

Derek Sabori
President

Amy von Kaenel
Secretary