

# Overview of the HAA Student-Alumni Engagement Committee

## The HAA Student-Alumni Engagement Committee

The Student-Alumni Engagement Committee (SAEC) of the Harvard Alumni Association facilitates the meaningful engagement of Harvard College undergraduates with the Harvard alumni community. The committee will promote, lead, review, and develop events, resources, and communications that introduce undergraduates to the alumni community (often through networking, mentorship, and events) and serve as thought partners with the HAA as they work to create and execute a successful student-alumni engagement strategy.

This committee of student volunteers will work in partnership with and under the guidance of a Harvard Alumni Association staff member to explore projects and initiatives and advise HAA staff on the needs of students. Updates and initiatives from this committee will be reviewed by College Directors on the Harvard Alumni Association's Board of Directors.

Current Harvard College first-years, sophomores, juniors, and seniors are eligible to join the committee. Terms last for one year, but students are encouraged to participate for at least two years. Targeted recruiting communications will be sent to those nominated by Harvard community members as well as those who had attended HAA student-alumni engagement programming in the prior academic year, but all are welcome to apply.

The committee will meet four times during the academic year, and other meetings may be scheduled as needed.

## Goals for College Undergraduate Student-Alumni Engagement

1. Make students aware of the Harvard Alumni Association and alumni community and communicate that they are part of this larger community.
2. Teach students how to take advantage of the opportunities available to them through the Harvard Alumni Association and the alumni community.
3. Create a strong class-based community that will allow for sustained engagement in senior year and alumni life.

The HAA College Alumni Programs team works with College partners on all student-alumni engagement endeavors. Partners include the Dean of Students Office, the Houses, the Mignone Center for Career Success, the Office for the Arts, the Center for Public Service and Engaged Scholarship, and more.

## Roles and Expectations of Student-Alumni Engagement Committee Members

- Members are appointed to a one-year term. Students are welcome to apply to be on the committee for additional years.
- Members will be expected to actively participate in the committee, including sending messages about initiatives and events, leading and attending events, coming to meetings of the committee, and completing assigned tasks.

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- Primary roles include publicity, serving as a focus group, reviewing events, speaking at events, and leading projects.
- Outreach to students for events and initiatives will be done via email lists, social media, flyering, personal outreach (email, social, other) and other methods.
- If members are uncertain about their assigned project or task, it is expected that members will reach out to their project group lead, the chairs of the committee (the two College Appointed Directors working with the committee) or the HAA staff liaison with questions.
- Members are encouraged to actively share ideas for future initiatives with the chairs and the HAA staff liaison to record them in a committee “parking lot” document.
- Returning members (in addition to HAA staff and College Directors) will help to provide continuity and sustain long-term projects.

## **The Harvard Alumni Association**

The Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) is the official association of all alumni of Harvard University including more than 400,000 alumni. The HAA maintains and enhances a highly engaged, vibrant community of alumni and friends worldwide. The purpose of the HAA is to promote the welfare of Harvard University and to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between Harvard University and its alumni.

The Harvard Alumni Association office sits within Alumni Affairs and Development. Alumni Affairs and Development inspires and galvanizes alumni, friends, and members of the University community to support Harvard through philanthropy, governance, and active engagement.

The College Alumni Programs office of the HAA serves more than 100,000 Harvard and Radcliffe College alumni. The office oversees and develops programming to preserve and maintain Harvard traditions and to create new opportunities to connect members of the Harvard community with one another and with the University.

## **The HAA Board of Directors**

The Harvard Alumni Association (HAA) Board of Directors is an advisory board that guides the fostering of alumni community building and creating University citizens of alumni and alumni volunteers. The main work of the Board of Directors focuses on developing volunteer leadership, increasing and deepening alumni engagement through an array of programs that support alumni communities worldwide.

From 2011-2020, the Building Community Committee of the HAA Board (made up of students and recent College graduates) oversaw both student-alumni and recent grad engagement efforts. Starting in the 2020-2021 year, this committee spun-off into two new committees separate from the HAA Board: the HAA Student-Alumni Engagement Committee and the HAA Recent Graduate Engagement Committee. While the Student-Alumni Engagement Committee is not part of the HAA Board, members of the Board, College Appointed Directors, will work alongside the committee.

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College Appointed Directors of the HAA Board, under the leadership of the Vice President for College Alumni Affairs, serve as the principal liaison between the HAA and the individual classes represented in each of the College cohort committees. They have a three-year term (except for the student Directors who have a one-year term).

Within the Student-Alumni Engagement Committee, College Directors from the youngest cohort of the alumni community will assume the following additional responsibilities:

- The student Directors will partner with the HAA staff liaison to lead the work of the Committee, including setting meeting dates, goals, and tasks for the year.
- The student Directors will participate in and lead all the Committee meetings in partnership with the HAA staff liaison. The recent graduate Directors (and the Vice President for College Alumni Affairs) will be invited as optional attendees.
- All (and the Vice President for College Alumni Affairs) will be included on major communications to the Committee, including onboarding messages, communications for upcoming initiatives/events, and debrief messages for initiatives/events.