

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (AAUW)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 13, 2026**

A videoconference meeting of the AAUW Board of Directors (the “Board”) was held on May 13, 2026. The meeting began immediately following the Annual Meeting at 4:20 pm Eastern time.

Directors Present:

Dianne Owens, Chair
Melissa LaDuke, Vice Chair
Christine Schmitz, Finance Chair
Hope Tryon Bennett, Secretary
Jenna Kirkpatrick Howard
Malinda Gaul
Jeanie Latz
Shaila Rao Mistry
Edwina Frances Martin
Auntaneshia Staveloz
Monique Taylor
Gloria Blackwell, CEO (ex officio)

Directors Absent:

Kimberly Adams
Aaliyah El-Amin
Hope Ricciotti
Mayida Zaal

Staff Present:

Carsyn Baxter, Senior Associate, Special Projects
Tamela Blalock, Senior Director, Operations & Administration
Katrina Sun Breese, Senior Director, Institutional Advancement
Tom Chappell, Vice President of Finance

Call to Order and Welcome

Dianne Owens, Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

Board Director Actions

Ms. Owens welcomed Malinda Gaul and noted that consistent with Article V, Section 4 of the bylaws, the board would consider the appointment of Ms. Gaul as a Board Director to fill the vacancy of former Board Director Sona Pacholy through FY2027.

There being no questions or comments, the following motion was made, seconded and approved.

Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Malinda Gaul to the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of AAUW approves Malinda Gaul to serve as a member of the Board of Directors effective May 14, 2026 and until the end of FY2027.

Ms. Owens then turned to the appointment of Hope Bennett to serve as Board Secretary for the remainder of Ms. Pacholy's term ending FY2027.

There being no questions or comments, the following motion was made, seconded and approved.

Resolution to Approve the Appointment of Hope Bennett as Secretary

The Board of Directors approves Board Director Hope Bennett to serve as Secretary of the Board effective May 14, 2026 and until the end of FY2027.

State of Higher Education--Director's Perspectives

In response to prompts from Ms. Blackwell, Dr. Taylor shared her perspective on the ongoing challenges to higher education institutions. She emphasized the need to stay grounded in history, look for opportunity, and preserve the importance of civic education in higher learning. She noted how higher education leaders have been forced to rethink priorities and that the challenges are different for schools across the country. Dr. Taylor also commented on emerging relevant trends to monitor. These include the impact of reproductive rights on young women, workforce development partnerships between industry and education, and artificial intelligence literacy requirements and ethical concerns.

Strategic Plan Updates

Ms. Blackwell reviewed organizational updates and achievements. She noted that in one week's time, the staff released a total of three press releases condemning attacks on civil rights, voting rights, and federal graduate loan caps. She also highlighted social media impact growth, improved email open rates, and a Title XI webinar that drew over 350 attendees.

Ms. Blackwell noted how the staff and board had participated in over 20 affiliate events this spring, both virtual and in-person. These events allowed the opportunity to uplift national priorities, inform affiliates of the new IRS requirement, and celebrate the 240 newly recognized grant and fellowship awardees.

It was also noted that this is the annual fundraising time period and that there is a \$250k matching gift campaign in progress. A new guest checkout, which can be used for donations, is being piloted for the website.

Ms. Breese continued the discussion with a focus on financial updates and strategic initiatives. She reported progress on the goal of increasing giving among alumnae, noting that it is expected that this year's giving number will exceed that of last year. She also discussed the launch of the Branch and Affiliate Annual Report, which has a response deadline of June 30th.

FY 2027 Draft Budget

Mr. Chappell presented on the FY2027 budget, highlighting the use of Workday Adaptive, a new software intended to increase efficiency in the budget process. He noted a surplus in unrestricted revenue, as well as progress in reducing the organization's deficit from \$15 million to a \$5 million reserve over three years.

Mr. Chappell indicated three main revenue sources, including 1) contribution revenue, which has increased through Legacy Circle growth 2) investment income, which has also increased due to the market, and 3) dues revenue, which is in decline. He remarked on specific expense highlights, including salary increases, award increases, and contingency increases to account for unexpected litigation costs. It was noted that there is a decrease in rent costs due to reduced pass-through expenses from a new landlord management company.

There was then a discussion regarding the history of the organization's use of the 80/20 rule strategy, which would encourage affiliates to contribute 20% of their fundraising to AAUW National.

Board Effectiveness and Board Role

Ms. Owens remarked that based on feedback from the board effectiveness survey, the revised board meeting calendar will include optional "get-acquainted" virtual meetings. She also noted that efforts would be made to assign board members to committees based on their interests and preferences.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Bennett then directed the Board's attention to the Consent Agenda items, noting two items for action, namely the minutes of the February 2026 board meeting and the membership consent calendar. She also referenced two items for information purposes– the Committee Appointment Process and Timeline Memo and the February 11, 2026 Executive Committee minutes.

There being no further discussion and following a motion and a second, the Board approved the following resolutions:

Resolution Approving the Minutes of the February 27, 2026 Board Meeting

The Board of Directors of AAUW approves the minutes of the February 27, 2026 board meeting as presented.

Resolution Approving the Membership Consent Calendar

The Board of Directors of AAUW approves the Membership Consent Calendar dated May 7, 2026, as presented.

Acknowledgment of Outgoing Board Members

Ms. Owens wished farewell to outgoing board members Jenna Kirkpatrick Howard, Jeanie Latz, Kimberly Adams, Edwina Frances Martin, and Shaila Rao Mistry. She and Ms. Blackwell expressed gratitude for their leadership, their contributions to AAUW's strategic planning, and for their steadfast support for empowering women and girls.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21pm ET.