

Direct Support Organizations (DSO) Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 28, 2026 | 5:30pm – 7:00 pm EST

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Call to Order

The meeting of the DSO Steering Committee was called to order at approximately 5:30 PM EST.

Roll Call

A roll call was conducted. Members and guests joined throughout the meeting. It was noted that a quorum was not present; therefore, the meeting proceeded for informational and discussion purposes only, and no formal actions were taken.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Brandi Tatum-Fedrick, Vice President for University Advancement, provided opening remarks and reaffirmed the University's commitment to strengthening support for Direct Support Organizations (DSOs), affinity groups, and alumni engagement efforts. She announced plans to enhance staffing support within Alumni Affairs, including the addition of an Assistant Vice President for Alumni Affairs and additional support personnel, with anticipated start dates of July 1, 2026.

Committee members discussed the importance of increased staffing support and requested an updated roster of Steering Committee members and organizational representation.

Technology Committee Update

Chair Kidd provided an update on the Technology Subcommittee's review of alumni engagement and membership management platforms.

Key discussion items included:

- Demonstrations conducted with AlmaBase regarding community engagement and membership management functionality.
- The need for additional discovery and user-experience analysis before implementation decisions are made.
- Concerns regarding integration with existing systems, data management requirements, membership structures, reporting capabilities, and customization needs for various DSOs.
- Commitment from University Advancement and the Technology Subcommittee to continue stakeholder engagement and conduct additional demonstrations and requirements gathering.

Alumni Engagement Council Concept

The committee discussed the concept of establishing an Alumni Engagement Council to facilitate coordination among DSOs, affinity groups, University Advancement, Athletics, Student Affairs, and other University stakeholders.

Key Discussion items included:

- Improving communication, strategic planning, and coordination among alumni-support organizations.
- Conducting annual planning retreats and collaborative engagement activities.
- Ensuring the Council serves in an advisory and coordinating capacity and does not diminish the independence of existing DSOs.
- Potential governance structures, including representation from University Advancement, the National Alumni Association, the Foundation Board, Athletics, and affinity groups.
- The importance of developing a draft charter for stakeholder review prior to any recommendation being advanced.

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- Following discussion, Chair Kidd committed to preparing and distributing a draft charter for committee review and comment.

Athletics Support and Rattler Boosters Discussion

The committee engaged in a broad discussion regarding the future structure and support model for Rattler Boosters and athletics fundraising.

Topics discussed included:

- Alignment of athletics fundraising efforts with the University's long-term Athletics Vision 2030 strategy.
- Opportunities to strengthen fundraising capacity, corporate sponsorships, donor engagement, and alumni participation.
- Review of governance structures and leadership models utilized by peer institutions.
- Consideration of booster club alignment, compliance requirements, and relationships among athletics-support organizations.
- Enhancement of fan experience, member engagement, and donor recognition programs.
- Long-term capital planning needs, including athletic facilities improvements and endowment growth.
- Development of an institutional approach to Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL), revenue sharing, and athletics fundraising initiatives.

Vice President Tatum-Fedrick and Athletics Director John Davis emphasized the need for a coordinated strategy that supports both current and future athletics priorities while ensuring compliance and sustainability. Committee members stressed the importance of transparency, stakeholder engagement, and collaboration with existing booster leadership before any structural recommendations are advanced.

Public and Member Comments

Committee members and participants provided comments regarding:

- Representation and governance structures.
- Transparency and communication throughout the review process.
- Fiscal accountability and reporting expectations.
- The importance of maintaining the independence and effectiveness of affinity groups and DSOs.
- The need for continued collaboration and stakeholder engagement.

Next Steps

The following follow-up actions were identified:

- Distribution of an updated Steering Committee membership roster.
- Distribution of a draft Alumni Engagement Council Charter for review and comment.
- Additional meetings to discuss the Alumni Engagement Council proposal.
- Continued discussions with Rattler Boosters leadership regarding athletics fundraising and organizational structure.
- Further review of technology platform requirements and demonstrations.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm EST.