



Alumnae Alliance Council Call
Thursday, August 15, 2024
7:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sweetbriarcollege.zoom.us/j/99359409055?pwd=ejZNYmFmTHZTZlJBeVpFUVJnemR3Zz09>

Participants: Lola Bailey '95, Katrina Bills '97, Natalie Carroll '21, Meredith Eads '01, Katie Keogh '88, Beth Kearns '85, Cortney Lewandowski '12, Lea Harvey '90, Jessica Hiveley '97, Arielle Morgan '15, Shanthi Ramesh '06, Vikki Schroeder '87, Catherine Springer '10, Epiphany VandeBogart '15, Sara Story '22, Jackie Vari '22

College Representatives: Mary Pope Hutson '83, President and Lee Anne Chaskes '83, Director of the Sweet Briar Fund

Key: Red = Action Item; Blue = Decision Made.

1. Welcome and Agenda Review (7:00-7:02PM) – Cortney Lewandowski
 - Reminder of ground rules
 - i. Attendance Policy at monthly AAC meetings
 - Appointment of Beth Kearns, Interim Governance Co-chair
2. Update & Discussion with President Hutson '83 (7:02-7:40PM)
 - Campus update: student leaders returning to campus; welcoming 139 new students from incoming class
 - Admissions criteria: new policy applies to incoming students in Fall 2025; college learned in January that the Common App used by most colleges today would list 4 genders (male, female, nonbinary, and other); prompted board to explore legal ramifications with regard to SBC founding trust, which is codified in Virginia; legal counsel indicated need for compliance with gender definition at the time of founding; passed policy reflecting this interpretation; eager to hear feedback from AAC co-chairs; co-chairs appreciated quick response and communication, but expressed concerns about transphobic optics, ambiguity of implementation plan, how/if current

students will be monitored, and relationship to the Honor Code; **asked to maintain dialogue.**

3. AR&D Update (7:40-7:45PM) – Lee Anne Chaskes

- Oral History Project update – 2000+ participants to date; **encouraged AAC Co-chairs to be a part of the project.**
- Tricia Fallon '84 – New Alumnae Admissions Coordinator; getting settled in new role.
- Inauguration – Patteson House available for 20 AAC reps; **encouraged arrival on Friday, September 27 and to register with Envoy app;** ceremony on 11AM, Saturday, September 28, followed by community luncheon and dinner dance.

4. Working Group – Key Needs or Questions (7:45-7:50PM)

- Young Alumnae Support – Natalie Carroll, Arielle Morgan, and Jackie Vari – YAS writing welcome cards to Seniors; Natalie attending honor code ceremony at Orientation; getting YAS business cards to support networking.
- Governance and Strategic Initiatives – Beth Kearns, Jess Hiveley – first official meeting of the year next week.
- Alumnae Clubs – Catherine Springer– Scheduling watch parties for Inauguration; 12 clubs hosting Sweet Briar Days so far; interested in partnering with Friends of Riding to host events around riding competitions.
- Alumnae Communications – Working with Comms on Sweet Work Weeks final posts; Lea Harvey to follow up with Cleilie Steckel.
- Admissions Ambassadors – Epiphany VandeBogart – Scheduling meet and greet with Tricia Fallon; working on shared goals.
- Sweet Work Weeks – Meredith Eads, Vikki Schroeder – Wrapped up summer 2024 projects; 10th year of SWW; next date likely in summer 2025, given busy fall on campus; working to set guidelines for participation to ensure safety; Vikki's last SWW.

5. Council Work and Collaboration (7:50-8:15PM)

- Priorities/Smart Goals
 - i. **Due September 1st**
- Headshots
 - i. **Due August 31st**
- Further discussion of Admissions criteria – Co-chairs expressed commitment to speaking their conscience, given disagreement with policy; encouraged continued dialogue to better inform implementation; **encouraged development of an advisory group comprising of younger**

alumnae more familiar with prevailing generational norms; some requested opportunity to review Board minutes of related meetings.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Next Council Call → September 19

Inauguration → September 28