

2025 SUMMER BOARD MEETING | Providence, RI --- **MINUTES**

Attendees: Reatha Cox, Darald Stubbs, David Grady, Rob Wellbaum, Anne Trask Forcier, Lamar Bryant, Larry Lunsford, Kaylee Prewitt, Antonio Ramirez Salcedo, Cheri Wechsler, Elizabeth With, Tyler Manning, Sara Runyon, Heidie Lindsey, Mardie Sorensen, Seth Ressler, Mike Taddesse, Kent Pawlak.

DAY 1: FRI, JULY 11, 2025

- **David made introductions**
 - Kaylee Prewitt introduced herself → David reminded her that as the Student Board Member, she has a full vote on the Board of Directors.
 - David introduced Dr. Elizabeth With and Rob Wellbaum as new additions to the Board of Directors.
 - David introduced Seth Ressler as the new Order of Omega Executive Director.
- **HQ Update → Presentations**
- **Break**
- **Gov. Committee Recommendations for Board mtg – Cheri**
 - Coming from committee, doesn't need a 2nd.
 - Dr. Michael Shonrock of Delta Tau Delta recommended as new Board of Directors member.
 - Discussion held, call for vote → all ayes -- **PASSED**
- **Officer Elections**
 - **President:** Reatha Cox and Darald Stubbs have submitted intent to run for the position. Both allotted 5 mins to speak, 5 mins Q&A.
 - Chaired by Larry Lunsford [Governance Committee Chair]
 - Board members voted. The first ballot is a tie. On second ballot voting, **REATHA COX elected as the next International President of Order of Omega.**
 - **Treasurer/Secretary:** David Grady submitted intent to run for the position. Allotted 5 mins to speak, 5 mins Q&A.
 - Motion to accept by Acclamation, seconded by Cheri, all ayes → **PASSED, DAVID GRADY elected as the next International Treasurer/Secretary of Order of Omega.**
 - **Vice President vacancy** – if interested, nominations are open – vote on **Sat. 7/12**
- **Board Re-appointments:**
 - Anne & Darald in 2026
 - Reatha & Larry in 2027
 - David, Cheri, and Lamar in 2025 – agreed to reappoint (3yr term)
- Mardie gave a token of appreciation to outgoing International Treasurer/Secretary, Dr. Howard Farrell and to outgoing International President, Dr. David Grady.

2025 SUMMER BOARD MEETING | Providence, RI --- **MINUTES**

- **MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT & EXPANSION COMMITTEE:** Mike (on behalf of Adam Joiner) gave a quick update which can be found in the 2025 reports book.
- **FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Howard Farrell discussed the 2024-2025 budget as well as the proposed 2025-2026 budget.
- **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:** Larry Lunsford discussed the committee's activities as outlined in the report book (page 18).
- **DEIB AD-HOC COMMITTEE:** Darald and Lamar discussed that the organization needs to have conversations because of the current landscape – is the organization in or out of this space? Needs direction.

END OF DAY 1

2025 SUMMER BOARD MEETING | Providence, RI --- **MINUTES**

DAY 2: SAT, JULY 12, 2025

- **Student Board Member Presentations:**

- Outgoing Student Board Member Antonio Ramirez Salcedo presented incoming Student Board Member Kayla Prewitt with the traditional sweatshirt from the outgoing's alma mater (Texas Tech Univ).
- David presented Kaylee Prewitt with the Omega Board pin.

- **Vice President position election (continued from Day 1):**

- Larry received nominations for VP for Darald Stubbs. Darald accepted.
- Motion made to accept, seconded by Howard.
- Motion to accept by Acclamation, seconded by Howard, all ayes → **PASSED, DARALD STUBBS elected as the next International Vice President of Order of Omega.**

- **SCHOLARSHIP REPORT - Reatha**

- Reatha made a recommendation to begin considering fraternal organization HQ staff for fellowship applications. Motion to accept, all ayes → **PASSED, effective 2025, fraternal organization HQ staff will be eligible to be considered for an Order of Omega Fellowship.**
- Reatha made a recommendation to consider an undergraduate intern specifically to assist with scholarship marketing.
- Discussion was held to consider increasing the scholarship money allotted to undergraduates.

- **REGIONAL CHAPTER DIRECTORS (RCDs)-**

- Tyler (Mid-America), Heidie (Southern), and Sara (Northeast) each gave a recap of their year with some highlights and trends they have observed in their respective regions.
- RCD reports are included in the report book.

- **Investment policy** – Howard and David led discussion on the updated investment policy which was emailed to group prior. Motion made to adopt the investment policy, no second needed, all ayes → **PASSED, investment policy adopted as stated.**

- **Tariffs discussion** – Mardie led discussion on the organization needing to be aware and prepared to address increases to merchandise prices as the vast majority of our merchandise materials originate in China/Asia. The proposed budget has made some incremental increases to merchandise prices as well as for shipping costs in anticipation of tariff increases.

- **Campus climate discussion** - Mardie and Seth, as well as the RCDs, led discussion on the current climate across university campuses with positions being eliminated, and the increasing

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number of fraternity/sorority advisors leaving their roles. This has a direct affect on Order of Omega chapters who tend to fail without the support of an FSL staff advisor.

- **Chapter concerns** - Mardie and Mike discussed a recent chapter concern with the Order of Omega chapter at the University of Nebraska at Kearney where a chapter member made unfounded allegations that the chapter did not following protocol when they made him inactive for his repeated law breaking (DUIs and resisting arrest).
- **HOWARD FARRELL PRESENTATION –**
 - Howard was presented with \$500 and a \$500 donation was made to Sigma Phi Epsilon on his behalf.
 - Motion made to name a \$250 scholarship for Dr. Howard Farrell, seconded by Lamar, all ayes → **PASSED.**
- **PROPOSED BUDGET 2025-2026:**
 - *Programming Grants* – bringing programming grants back at their previous level (\$10,000). IHQ will set guidelines on the types of programs that would qualify.
 - Motion made to bring programming grants back at the \$10,000 level, seconded by Lamar, discussion held regarding if the amount level should be increased, group kept it at \$10,000, board members voted, all ayes → **PASSED.**
 - *Technology Fee* – proposal to increase the current \$3.00/new member technology fee to \$5.00/new member technology fee.
 - Motion made to increase the technology fee by \$2, seconded by Anne, discussion was held, group felt this was unnecessary at this time, board members voted, did not meet passing threshold → **DID NOT PASS.**
 - Howard made a motion to pass the 2025-2026 budget, seconded by Rob, board members voted, all ayes → **PASSED.**
 - David made a motion to appoint Rob Wellbaum as Assistant Treasurer/Secretary, seconded by Darald, all ayes → **PASSED, ROB WELLBAUM elected as assistant Treasurer/Secretary of Order of Omega.**
- Resolution for Mardie Sorensen’s upcoming retirement and service to Order of Omega was read by Cheri. Accepted by acclamation.
- Motion made by David to accept the Executive Committee meeting minutes. Seconded by Darald, all ayes → **PASSED.**

2025 SUMMER BOARD MEETING | Providence, RI --- **MINUTES**

- **QUARTERLY MEETINGS FOR 2025-2026:**

- Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at 4 p.m. CT
- Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 4 p.m. CT
- Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 4 p.m. CT

- Motion to adjourn 2025 Summer Board Meeting, seconded, meeting adjourned.