CMU STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION
The Interim VP for University Advancement introduced the university’s Strategic Plan process to the board. She reviewed the timeline and areas of focus for the plan. The board discussion centered on the third focus area, the Transformative CMU Experience. First, the board contributed answers to the question of “what are CMU’s core values as institution.” Later, the board broke into three groups to discuss key outcomes for students in four areas of development; top three key priorities/needs for alumni; and strategic directions in which CMU should move forward during the next several years. All were encouraged to participate in the upcoming Strategic Plan Town Hall Meetings on campus or via webcast.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT’S REPORT
The Interim VP for University Advancement gave a university update on topics that included faculty and staff searches; awards and honors; the upcoming San Francisco event and its goals; Tony Awards; Presidential Scholarships and Fellowships Initiative; and facility projects.

SOUTH FLORIDA NETWORK LEADERS UPDATE
The leaders of the South Florida Alumni Network addressed the AAB and shared a brief history and facts of the South Florida Alumni Chapter. Their presentation included: an overview of their leadership team; a review of 2014 events; ideas for new events; and their long term plans.

STUDENT UPDATE
The student representative to the AAB updated the board regarding the Highland Ambassadors and their involvement in the CMU community through campus events and the Loyal Scot Initiative. In February, the Highland Ambassadors will assist with the activities of Love-A-Donor Week, helping to thank CMU donors and educate students about the importance of philanthropy.

ANDREW CARNEGIE SOCIETY UPDATE
The board was updated on the current ACS membership numbers and their goals.

AVP FOR ALUMNI RELATIONS & ANNUAL GIVING REPORT
The AVP for Alumni Relations & Annual Giving updated the board on: recent outcomes from Crowdfunding and Giving Tuesday; the annual giving committee and athletics giving challenge; the partnership between computing services and the alumni office to provide permanent alumni email accounts beginning with the class of 2015; the university’s branding initiative; and AGAR office responsibilities shifts.
COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Nominating Committee**
  The Nominating Committee selected 5 new directors to join the board’s 2015-16 class. During this report and portion of the meeting, the slate was presented to the full board. There was a motion for a vote, which was seconded, and after a brief discussion, the board voted and unanimously approved the slate.

- **Awards Committee**
  Honorees for the Distinguished Service, Alumni Service and Student Service Awards were selected. The slate was presented to the full board. There was a motion for a vote, which was seconded, and after a brief discussion, the board voted and unanimously approved the slate. In addition, the Faculty Service Award description is being reviewed and updated to provide more clarity on the criteria for the award.

- **Colleges Committee**
  The committee continues to establish and maintain connections with college and department alumni boards/councils at CMU. A summary of the fall AAB meeting was sent to council partners. The committee is working to recruit representatives from each council to attend Volunteer Forum.

- **Incoming Students Committee**
  The committee has a lot of ideas and is working to prioritize tasks and initiatives. They will meet every two weeks to help follow through and execute the ideas.

- **Graduating Students Committee**
  Board members were thanked for signing “congratulations and welcome to the Alumni Association” cards for student leaders and Loyal Scots who are graduating. Also, a Welcome to a New City event will occur during Spring Carnival and will help graduating students connect in their new cities.

INITIATIVE UPDATES

- **Loyal Scot Room in the CUC**
  Current and past AAB members are asked to contribute gifts of any size to the Loyal Scot space in the CUC Expansion. The initiative is more than halfway to the goal of $7,500 and the plan is to achieve this by June 30, 2015.

- **Chapter/AIG Initiative**
  The goal of this initiative is to help establish a deeper connection between the AAB and chapter/AIG leaders and to help them become stronger alumni networks. Board members have reached out to five networks thus far.

- **Professional Development Update**
  The purpose of this initiative is to strengthen the CMU network by developing opportunities for alumni to connect with each other, students and the university through substantial, intentional career and professional development programming. The AAB can help the program by attending the events and sharing the information with fellow alumni.

AAB PRESIDENT’S REPORT

The AAB President acknowledged the board’s hard work. She asked for feedback on the following items:

- Awards Ceremony
- AAB communication tools
- Quarterly emails to past board members
- Google drive improvement
She emphasized once more about the upcoming San Francisco event and encouraged all who could to attend. Next year’s committee plans are currently in the works. She also announced that the January 2016 meeting will take place in Pittsburgh.

DISCUSSION ITEMS
In addition to generating ideas about the January 2016 board agenda and activities, it was suggested that a “What’s New at CMU” document/communication might be created in the future to give alumni a quick scoop on university initiatives and updates. This could be especially helpful to those alumni who cannot travel to campus.

VOLUNTEER FORUM UPDATE
This year, Volunteer Forum will be held jointly with Commencement weekend, which will provide an opportunity for alumni volunteers to attend and participate in the ceremony and celebration of the newest graduates on Sunday. The tentative agenda for that weekend is to have AAB meetings through the day Thursday, as well as Friday morning, followed by the Volunteer Forum Opening Session on Friday at Noon. University key initiatives will be highlighted throughout the day during education sessions and tours, and the evening rounds out with a progressive dinner on the campus and Fence painting. A Graduating Student Reception is incorporated after the Saturday Forum workshops and takes place at the Alumni House, followed by the volunteer celebration dinner. On Sunday, there will be various opportunities for volunteers to help during the commencement.

NEXT STEPS & ACTION ITEMS
The AAB President will collect all feedback from board members and will send a follow-up email. At the conclusion of the meeting, she thanked the board and staff for their hard work.

The next meeting of the Alumni Association Board is May 14-15, 2015 in Pittsburgh over Volunteer Forum and Commencement Weekend.

Questions about the AAB or its work may be sent to the president, Rebecca Albrecht Allison (CMU’96, HNZ’01).