



**Executive Board Minutes**  
**Annual Meeting**  
November 16, 2021

**Executive Board:** J. Boynton, W. Cleary III, A. Franklin, P. Haughey, Jr., C. Joslin, R. Joyce, J. Reardon, M. Stansik

**Advisory Board:** R. Anderson, W. Cleary, P. George, M. Goldberg, J. Halpern, S. Kasetta, K. Lantz, W. Little, W. Markus, K. Martin, R. McGhee, N. Musa, G. Peter, J. Powers, A. Ruggiero, F. Schernecker, C. Weber

**Staff/ Guests:** B. Abercrombie, C. Bent, T. Braz, P. Brennan, J. Brzezenski, A. Chesebro, N. DeHoratius, T. Dingman, J. Downing, M. Festa, J. Filoon, J. Fink, C. Furey, J. Galeski, A. Gallinal, M. Gaston, R. Glatz, M. Hanson, K. Kaplan, T. MacDonald, E. McDermott, M. Morrison, T. Morrison, J. Nelson, R. Ohno, B. Rabinowitz, M. Robertson, C. Roth, S. Samuels, F. Scalamandre, J. Schall, J. Sparks, G. Stiles, K. Strout, C. Sullivan, T. Theodorakis, G. Thomas,

At 6:05 PM, President Johanna Boynton opened the Zoom-conducted meeting. She opened by introducing our guest speaker, Gabby Thomas '19. Gabby represented the United States in the 2020 Olympics, where she won an individual Bronze medal in the 200 meter dash, and a team Silver medal in the 4x100 meter relay. President Boynton also introduced HVC Board member Ngozi Musa '19 who moderated the conversation.

**A Conversation with Gabby Thomas '19**

Gabby's conversation with Ngozi focused on a few themes:

- Gabby talked about how she chose Harvard to pursue excellence academically and athletically, and she shared that turning professional while still on campus was not on her radar initially! She plans to use her platform to encourage her followers to “not have to choose” and to make their own path, like she did.
- She stressed that she gained valuable mindset training and work ethic skills while competing for Harvard, which has set her up to manage everything that comes with being a professional athlete. Giving lots of credit to her coach Kebba Tolbert and her teammates, Gabby learned how to balance competition, academics and everything else Harvard has to offer.
- In addition to her professional track career, Gabby is pursuing a Master's in Epidemiology at the University of Texas, an internship at Leidos, examining inequalities in health specifically in the Veteran population. She credits Harvard

with training her to appreciate and pursue opportunities outside of track, which help her feel refreshed and recharged when it is time to train and compete.

- Gabby and Ngozi spoke about their experience at the Senior Letterwinners' Dinner, where Gabby won the Radcliffe Prize - the award for the top female athlete. Gabby reflected on how competing at Harvard as a student-athlete is such a unique experience, and how special it was to share this night with her teammates.
- Gabby relived the experience of qualifying for the Olympics, lining up next to Allison Felix, and walked us through how her mindset changed from just wanting to compete, to realizing she was going to win!
- She spoke about the importance of prioritizing her mental health, especially when she returned from the Olympics. When asked what advice she would offer for other athletes in this area, she encouraged folks to remember that we are human, and while others might not remember this, it's important that we do!
- When asked what is next for her, Gabby shared that she is training for the World Championships in Eugene, OR, while continuing to pursue her Master's (she is due to graduate this spring).

### **Athletic Department Update**

President Boynton thanked Gabby Thomas and Ngozi Musa for their time and inspirational conversation.

At this time, President Boynton turned the “screen” over to Erin McDermott, the John D. Nichols '53 Family Director of Athletics.

AD McDermott began by thanking the group, and stated that after a year of no competition, we have bounced back in a really big way!

AD McDermott shared remarks about the successful Fall season, and which sports were or are competing in the post-season, including: Field Hockey, Men's and Women's Cross Country, Women's Soccer, Women's Rugby and Men's Water Polo. She also noted “The Game” is happening at Yale this weekend.

She made brief remarks about the following initiatives that continue to be priorities of the Athletic Department:

- A comprehensive facility study of indoor and outdoor athletics spaces
- Academic integration
- Community building
- Student athletes benefitting from their name, image and likeness
- NCAA structure and membership

A brief question and answer session followed.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Marc Goldberg gave the Treasurer's Report. Year-to-date figures are tracking above last year with dues (\$81,900 in FY 22 versus \$75,641 in FY 21) and donations (\$90,373 for FY

22 versus \$39,369 for FY 21). Of particular note is the big jump in Lifetime Members from 13 at this time last year to 39.

The Club's endowment, managed by Neuberger Berman, has increased twenty-one percent from \$6,411,718 to \$7,758,882 in one year.

### **Nominating Committee**

Bob Anderson was introduced by President Boynton to give the Nominating Committee Report. Committee Chairman Anderson thanked the committee comprised of Char Joslin, Andy Freed, Marc Goldberg and himself. Of the three positions up for nominations, all three were elected. They are:

Vice President: Trevor Scales (150 votes)

Secretary: Molly Stansik (131 votes)

Elected Board: Raishaun McGhee (124 votes)

Congratulations to our elected officers!

In addition to these elected positions, Bob welcomed three recently added members to the Advisory Board: Tom Dingman, Chris Egi and Kirby Porter.

### **HVC Update I**

Raishaun McGhee provided an update on 3.2 for Ben, a fundraiser started in 2018 to support The Benson M. Abercrombie '21 Fund. As of November 16, 582 walkers/runners have signed up (as compared to 511 in FY21) to participate, and \$58,486 has been raised from 56 donors.

### **HVC Update II**

Molly Stansik provided an update on the second annual HVC Giving Tuesday effort, which runs through November 30<sup>th</sup>. In lieu of the full slate of HVC fundraising events, Giving Tuesday provides a great chance to enhance financial support for the HVC during these unusual times.

President Boynton then shared with the group that she made a gift to make Ben Abercrombie a Lifetime Member of the Harvard Varsity Club. Ben thanked Jojo, and offered his appreciation to the entire HVC community, and to all that they have done to support him, especially through the 3.2 for Ben fundraiser.

The Broadbent Family Executive Director of the Harvard Varsity Club, Bob Glatz, was introduced to share details about some upcoming events.

President Boynton then asked if there were any questions or comments.

President Boynton called for any other new business. There being none, she accepted a motion to adjourn and thanked everyone in attendance.

At 7:20 PM the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Molly Stansik '13

Secretary