
FRANKLIN
SWITZERLAND
U.S. UNIVERSITY & SWISS UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE
ALUMNI
COUNCIL

Franklin Switzerland
Alumni Council Leadership Guide
2026-2027 Edition

Welcome to Franklin's Alumni Council!

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the entire alumni community, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Alumni Council! We are thrilled to have you join this dedicated group of individuals who share a deep commitment to our unique University and its continued success.

Your experience, insight, and passion for our institution will be invaluable as we work together to strengthen alumni engagement, support alumni clubs around the world, and foster a lifelong connection between alumni and Franklin. The Council plays a vital role in shaping the future of alumni relations, and your voice will help guide our efforts and initiatives in meaningful ways.

As a member of the Council, you'll have the opportunity to collaborate with fellow alumni, contribute to events and programs, and advocate for our community both near and far. We're confident your participation will enrich the work we do and inspire others to stay connected and involved.

Thank you for your willingness to serve. We look forward to your ideas, leadership, and continued enthusiasm as we embark on this exciting journey together!

Warm regards,

Conner Crawford
President
Class of 2012

Alumni Council History

The Council was originally composed of twenty-five alumni from both the US and non-US communities and two Alumni Trustees, whom the President and the Board named in recognition for past, present, and ongoing support of the University. Thereafter, the Council elected members whom it felt could contribute strongly to its mission. Candidates were proposed to the Alumni Trustees and voted upon by the Nomination Committee. The Council was led by the Alumni Trustees and the Assistant Dean of Alumni and Parent Relations.

In 2022 the Alumni Council was reorganized as an independent organization within the Franklin Advancement Department. Led by elected alumni volunteers and run by a President and Vice-President, the Council was charged with actively involving alumni in the life of the University. Supported in this task by two other officers as well as three committee chairs, it is the Council's mission to provide a forum for the discussion of alumni issues, concerns and ideas. In addition, the Council serves as a conduit to and from the Board of Trustees for such information while also supporting the growth of the greater alumni association through incorporation and upkeep of its alumni fund.

Alumni Council Structure

The Alumni Association is made up of any student that has completed at least one semester at Franklin Switzerland or one of its predecessors. The Franklin Switzerland Alumni Association is governed by the Alumni Council, an advisory group that is made up of elected alumni volunteers. The Alumni Council works closely with the Department of Advancement to foster lifelong relationships between Franklin Switzerland and its students and alumni.

The Council is led by the Executive Committee which is comprised of the President, Vice-President, Funds Officer, and Secretary/Parliamentarian; with each serving a three-year term of office. The Committee also includes the Advancement office representative as a non-voting member. The President and Vice-President generally serve as alumni representatives to the Board of Trustees and when invited, attend Board of Trustees meetings as non-voting members. The Alumni Council meets quarterly, including an annual Alumni Association meeting open to all alumni held in November in New York City and via the web.

The Council is made up of four standing committees: the Executive, Alumni and Student Outreach, Career Strategy, and Regional Programming. The remaining voting Council positions are filled by the chairs of said committees as well as the Admissions Representative, Graduate Engagement Representative, working ad-hoc committee members and the student representative elected by the Franklin Student Government Association.

The Advancement representative, immediate past Council President, DEIB liaison, Honorary Members including Committee members and Club Chairs not serving in other Council positions are considered to be ex-officio members of the Council. Ex-officio members are allowed to attend meetings and to speak, but not to make motions or vote except on deadlocked issues.

Representative Positions

Chosen by the Executive Committee, representative positions do not require a full committee of members to execute their goals. Liaisons are meant to work with the guidance of their respective Franklin administration and staff. These positions can develop into committees should the University and the Executive Committee require.

Admissions Representative: The representative shall work under the guidance of the Director of U.S. Enrollment and the head of Admissions Ambassadors. The representative will look for opportunities to collaborate with all other committee chairs should there be opportunities to invite prospective families and counselors to meet alumni through events, networking, etc.

DEIB Liaison: The representative shall represent the DEIB committee of the University. At the Universities discretion, they shall either attend Council meetings virtually or provide updates to the Council on ongoing projects within the committee. This is an ex-officio position.

Graduate Engagement Representative: The representative will come from one of the three most recent Franklin classes. This position will focus on creating and maintaining ties with recent graduates and will work with both the Outreach and Programming Committees to achieve these goals.

Student Representatives(s): The student may be selected by the Student Government Association ("SGA") to serve a term of one (1) academic year and is recommended to have attended Franklin for at least one (1) semester prior to their appointment. The representative shall act as a conduit between the AC and the student body, representing current student interests while keeping students abreast of ongoing alumni activities.

Alumni Council Membership

Council members are nominated and elected from the Alumni Association. Any alumni may be nominated and self-nominations are allowed. Nominations are vetted by the Executive Committee and Advancement and Alumni Relations Department and then voted on by the full Council. Members take office July 1, and serve a term of three (3) years while serving up to three (3) consecutive terms. After three (3) terms, members are term limited and must take a break of at least one (1) term. These term limits are suspended during Executive committee service.

Members are expected to attend and actively participate in the quarterly Council meetings as well as necessary committee meetings. Any member that has three (3) unexcused absences from quarterly meetings within one year will be considered to have resigned their position and be notified of their replacement.

All members are expected to give annually, within their means, to the Alumni Council fund as well as supporting the Franklin fund to model and show support of the University's mission.

Any member found to have any of the following infractions may be removed from their position by a vote of no confidence of two-thirds of those present and voting at the next regular meeting: unwillingness or failure to perform assigned duties in a satisfactory manner, wantonly offensive conduct, failure to maintain the confidentiality of sensitive materials, or for severe dereliction of duties as determined by this handbook or bylaws, including but not limited to failure to uphold the values of FUS, propagating falsehoods or obstructing the parliamentary authority adopted by the Council.

Honorary Council Membership

A Council member who has served with distinction and obvious commitment to the Council shall be eligible for nomination as an Honorary Member of the Council. Nominations shall be made to the Executive Committee for a Council vote. Additionally, all committee members not engaged in other active roles are also considered to be Honorary Council members.

In lieu of their dedicated service to the University as well as the Council, all members of the Former Alumni Trustee Honor Circle are automatically considered Honorary Council members.

Honorary Council members are invited to all quarterly meetings. As non-voting members, they may choose to not take on committee responsibilities and obligations, including meeting attendance, but are expected to demonstrate their continuing commitment to FUS's progress in other ways; including outreach, personal philanthropy, and participation in campus projects and activities.

All honorary members shall be invited to the Annual Meeting of the Council, ordinarily in November, and shall be eligible to serve on certain Council committees, either with a vote or as an ex-officio liaison, where their expertise may be especially helpful to the Council.

Former Alumni Trustees Honors Circle

The Former Alumni Trustees Honors Circle was founded in March 2009 as a way to honor and encourage further engagement of former Alumni Trustees. The Alumni Council and the University are forever grateful for the Alumni Trustee's many valuable contributions to Franklin. Occasional events and special meetings may be held for the Former Alumni Trustees.

Angela Fowler '75
1995-1997

Deirdre Kinney-Brennan '81
1997-1999

Lisa Peck-Cruikshank '88
1998-2000

Nadia Allam '93
1999-2001

Ned Lynch '66
2000-2002

Claudia Figueredo '95
2001-2003

John Steinbreder '76
2002-2005

Daniel Eng '01
2003-2006

Richard Sussman '95
2005-2008

Derek Wilkinson '95
2005-2008

Eva Gianini '95
2007-2009

Jennifer Raley '77
2008-2011, 2014

Vince Mancuso '91
2008-2011

Frances Stewart '75
2009-2012

Denise Alfed '88
2012-2014

Tom Pegues '94
2013-2014

Inigo Garcia '11
2014-2016

Bedford Wynne '01
2015-2017

Renu Mody '83
2017-2020

Skylar Yost '11
2019-2021

Emily Boynton '09
2020-2022

Ryan Ellis '09
2021-2022

Former Alumni Council Presidents Honors Circle

The Former Alumni Council Presidents Honors Circle was founded in January 2024 to honor and encourage further engagement of former Council Presidents. The Alumni Council and the University are forever grateful for the leaders of the council and their many valuable contributions to Franklin. Occasional events and special meetings may be held for the Former Presidents.

Emily Boynton ‘09
2022-2025

Alumni Council Fund

The creation of the Alumni Council Fund was announced at the November 1999 meeting. Its purpose was to fund events, lectures, activities that further the mission of the University and Council as well as cover the expenses of the Council. The Fund was established with two donations from Lisa Peck Cruikshank and Ursula Lowerre.

While all Council Members are expected to make annual contributions to the Fund, donations may be solicited from the alumni association as a whole in many targeted ways (provided reasonable attempts were made to coordinate with the University on any ongoing projects).

The commitments of this fund are varied and may include but are not limited to supporting students and alumni by providing funding for regional club programming, the Ursula Gentile Lowerre Outstanding Service Award, the annual boat cruise, the holiday and spring art competitions as well as the annual meeting.

Any Council member or Club leader may use the "Funding Request Form" to request funds and all forms shall firstly be submitted to the Funds Officer for evaluation. If the form is incorrect or incomplete, the applicant will be notified. If in order, the request will be reviewed by the Executive committee and Advancement representative for a vote of approval. If the request is approved, the Advancement representative will arrange for the disbursement of the funds. An after-event recap along with receipts and the return of any unspent funds is expected in a timely fashion (within two weeks). A budget update will be given at each Council meeting and details will be included in the minutes.

Alumni Council Art Competition Guidelines

Historically, the Alumni Council sponsored an art competition during both the Fall and Spring semesters. Currently the Alumni Council votes and selects one winner in the Fall only; based on originality, creativity, concept selection, and overall quality. The winner receives a cash prize of 250 CHF and their artwork is added to the University's art collection.

The Fall semester, no earlier than the completion of academic travel, the Advancement department will put out a call for submissions to all current students. The submission should stress the winter holiday atmosphere linked to Franklin, which may be chosen as the holiday card to be sent out to the community. Submissions must be made by the second week of November. Following this date, the Alumni Council will vote (electronically) on the works that have been entered into the final competition, with the highest vote getter being given the prize.

General guidelines include:

- Two-dimensional and three-dimensional works will be considered, including painting, sculpture, photography and drawing.
- A maximum of two works per artist may be submitted.
- Only works completed in the same academic year will be considered.
- The digital photo of each piece of art should be in JPEG format.
- All artwork must be original and created by the submitting student without the use of AI-generated content. Students may use digital tools for enhancements, but AI-assisted image generation (such as DALL•E, MidJourney, Stable Diffusion, etc.) is strictly prohibited.
- Students may be required to submit earlier work showing development stages.
- Only properly submitted works shall be considered.
- The student rep will recuse themselves from the voting.

As adopted at the May 30th 2026 meeting of the Alumni Council, the following proposal will now guide efforts to support Franklin's campus art community during the Spring semester until such time that finalized language is approved.

"This proposal outlines a 10 day, Alumni Council sponsored art exhibition to be held during the Spring semester at Franklin in lieu of the traditional Spring art competition. The event will provide a curated, gallery like environment showcasing artwork created by students in the Visual Communication Arts program. It is designed to celebrate student creativity while fostering stronger connections between students, faculty and the Franklin community as a whole.

- The exhibition aims to give student artists a platform to present their work in a formal setting, helping them gain exposure and professional experience. It will also encourage supportive alumni efforts, promote appreciation for the arts and contribute to a more vibrant cultural environment at the University.
- The exhibition will run for 10 consecutive days at a date to be determined in coordination with the academic calendar and space availability. The gallery will feature multiple categories of student work; such as digital media, photography, sculpture, painting, and mixed media. Artwork will be displayed in an organized manner, with each piece accompanied by basic information about the artist and format.
- The Visual Communication Arts professors will help oversee the selection of artwork. Students will submit their pieces through an application process to be created later and a curatorial committee will curate the exhibition based on quality, originality and relevance. This should ensure professional standards while maintaining academic oversight.
- Proposed spaces for the exhibition could include spaces such as the Warden Student lounge, Holman Hall or Ben's Den; though the final venue will be determined in collaboration with Franklin administration. The selected space must be able to support a gallery like setup, including appropriate display areas and lighting.
- The Alumni Council will sponsor the exhibition, providing financial and organizational support. Their involvement may include funding for materials and promotion, participation in planning and hosting or contributing to an opening reception. This partnership will strengthen alumni connections to current students and campus initiatives.
- The exhibition may include an opening reception, opportunities for alumni-student interaction and other engagement activities to enhance the experience. Promotion will be conducted through campus communications, social media and alumni networks to ensure strong attendance and visibility."

Ursula Gentile Lowerre Outstanding Service Award Guidelines

In November of 2006, Franklin Switzerland's Board of Trustees voted unanimously to create the Ursula Gentile Lowerre Outstanding Service Award. This award was developed to recognize outstanding members of the alumni community for exemplary service to the University and for their enthusiastic leadership and support of its mission and goals. The award reflects the honor and credit that recipients bring to the University through their actions and contributions.

Each year Franklin trustees, alumni, faculty, and staff are invited to submit nominations for the award. Nominees shall have a proven record of exceptional service to Franklin Switzerland as well as to their community. Only alumni of Franklin Switzerland, or one of its predecessors, are eligible. Alumni and alumni working as Franklin staff must have graduated or departed the University at least three years before being able to be nominated and previous winners cannot be re-nominated for a period of three years. Current board members and employees of the University are not eligible to receive the award.

Nominations shall be open at the start of the new fiscal year, July 1. Notification shall be sent out beginning in August by the Department of Advancement and the Alumni Council seeking nominations, with nominations closing no later than the second week of October. After all nominations have been received, the awardee will be decided by an Award Selection Committee. This committee will be made up of a Franklin Trustee representative, Honorary Alumni Council member, two Alumni Council Members (one of which will be either the President or Vice President) and an Advancement department representative. The AC members shall be chosen by the Council President. This committee will decide on the top two candidates and then vote on the winner. If a tie exists, the current Council President will make the final decision in consultation with the Advancement representative. If the awardee accepts, they will be announced at the annual Alumni Council meeting in November. Should the awardee decline, the Selection committee may offer the award to the runner-up or choose not to make a selection.

This award is not required to be given out each year. The alumni selected will be presented the award at the following May Commencement Ceremony. The awardee may apply for a travel stipend to the ceremony from the Alumni Council.

Regional Alumni Club Recognition Form

As a Club Chair (or Co-Chair) you are asked to hold at least two events per year in your area. Club membership is free and no dues will be collected. You will also be a part of the Alumni Council Regional Programming Committee to share best practices and see what other clubs are doing in their locations. You will work with the Programming Committee chair and Franklin staff when planning your event and marketing to fellow Franklin alumni.

First Name:

Last Name:

City, State (if APL), and Country of desired Club:

Email Address:

Class Year:

Club Co-Chair:

Bio information for FUS website:

Club Leader Application Form

First Name:

Last Name:

City, State (if applicable) and Country of Club:

Email address:

Phone Number:

Class Year (graduated or final year at FUS):

Are you interested in Club Chair or Co-Chair position?:

Alumni Council Funding Request Form

Who: requests (amount)

For what:

Purpose:

Where:

When:

Expected Attendance:

Ticker Price per attendee (if applicable):

Signature*:

*This signature acknowledges that the Club Leader named above will incur any and all additional costs associated with hosting the event not approved by this request.

Please list any additional information below:

Alumni Council Committee Interest Form

Use this form to indicate your interest in volunteering to serve on an Alumni Council committee. The committees are led by a Chair and will meet at least three times per year virtually. Committees include Alumni and Student Outreach; Career Strategy; and Regional Programming (Club Leaders). Representatives include Admissions and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging. To learn more about the committees and liaison positions, visit https://www.fus.edu/alumni/get-involved/alumni-council.

First Name:

Last Name:

Email Address:

City:

Country:

Class Year (Graduation/final Franklin year):

With which Committee(s)/Liaison(s) would you be interested in working?

☐Alumni and Student Outreach

☐Career Strategy

☐Regional Programming (Clubs)

☐At-Large

Are you interested in a leadership position?

☐ Yes

☐ No