SSA Mission statement: The University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration is dedicated to working toward a more just and humane society through research, teaching, and service to the community. As one of the oldest and most highly regarded graduate schools of social work, SSA prepares professionals to handle society’s most difficult problems by developing new knowledge, promoting a deeper understanding of the causes and human costs of social inequities, and building bridges between rigorous research and the practice of helping individuals, families, and communities to achieve a better quality of life.

SSA Priorities pertaining to the Alumni Association: The strength of SSA as an institution is largely dependent on the engagement and support of the alumni community. The School maintains the following three key priorities as they relate to increasing alumni engagement:

- Networking and career development for alumni and students
- Volunteer recruitment and engaging alumni of distinction and influence
- Participation in the SSA Fund

The SSA Alumni Association activities should reflect focus on these key priorities in sustainable and measurable ways.

Expectations of board members:

- Act as ambassadors for SSA, representing the School and alumni and supporting the SSA’s mission and initiatives.
- Encourage alumni participation in SSA and University of Chicago initiatives and events.
- Attend quarterly meetings (preferably in-person if you live in the Chicago area).
- Participate in at least two alumni events per year, whether they are Board-sponsored or University organized.
- Participate on at least one SSA Alumni Association Committee. Committee descriptions can be found at http://ssa.uchicago.edu/alumni-association-committees.
- Contribute annually to the SSA fund and encourage participation among the alumni community.
- Strengthen the relationship between the SSA Alumni Association and the University of Chicago Alumni Association.
- Initiate and encourage an open dialog with SSA Alumni, students, faculty, and administration.
- Utilize and leverage their personal and professional networks in service of increasing alumni engagement.

Length of term: Two years, with an option to remain on the board for a second two-year term. Length of service may be extended if elected to one or more executive position(s), in which case each elected officer is expected to serve at least one two-year term, with an option to remain in that same officer position for the second two-year term. Board members are eligible for election to more than one officer position, with requisite term lengths applying to each elected position.

Meetings and time commitment:

All SSA Alumni Board Members are asked to make personally meaningful contributions to the Alumni Association. Individual time commitments to the Alumni Board may vary over the course of the academic year; however Board members should expect to dedicate an average of 3-5 hours per month to Board activities. You may be more active in any particular month, depending on your committee work and attendance at Board-sponsored events.

The Board of Directors meets once per quarter on Saturday mornings, at SSA or at the University of Chicago’s Alumni House. Meetings typically last two or three hours. Board committees meet as needed, pending their respective work agenda. Other groups (task forces, event chairs) may also meet outside of Board or committee meetings as needed.