



ALUMNI DIALOGUES: AN HBS UNCONFERENCE EXPERIENCE FAQs

What is this all about?

Engagement. Connection. Exploration. Shared experience. This program is being offered to engage with others, meet new alumni, and transform your experience. An unconference is a participant-led day of conversations, collaborative thinking and collaborative doing. Session ideas all come directly from participants – you.

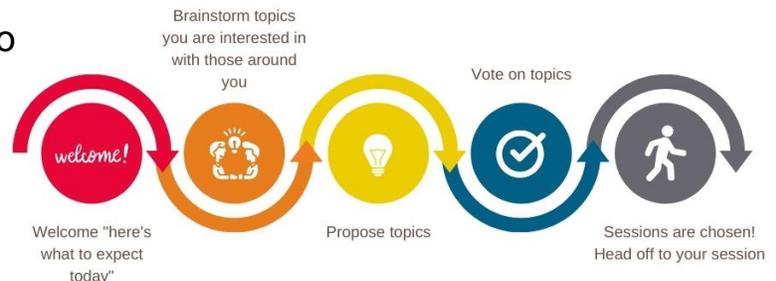
Where did this idea originate?

The term “unconference” started in the tech industry, as people found that the interesting content at conferences wasn't so much the formal presentations as the discussions that took place in the hallway.

Alumni Board member, Andreas Stavropoulos, (MBA 1997) recommended this approach for HBS, having experienced it himself.

How does it work?

We start with a brainstorming session to surface potential topics and then go through a spirited selection process - proposing, debating and choosing the set of discussion areas. Participants then choose for themselves (vote with your feet) the specific topic they want to join.



Can I bring my spouse? Classmates?

Yes, you can attend with your classmates as well as your registered guests. Everyone who joins should plan to contribute as this is a participatory experience.



ALUMNI DIALOGUES: AN HBS UNCONFERENCE EXPERIENCE FAQs

What are examples of topics that might be discussed?

At the Spring Alumni Board meeting where this was initially piloted, the topics were varied: *Implications of a World at War*; *Spicing up your marriage after 50*; *Dealing with Aging Parents*; in addition to several professional challenges were a few of the discussions that took place. All of these were proposed by participants so let your interests and curiosities be your inspiration for ideas.

If I want to suggest a topic do I need materials ready to present?

No materials are needed, in fact, this program is “material-free.” The focus is on the conversations and not on presenting. It is an opportunity to engage with others who share an interest in the topic. There will be diverse opinions, experiences and perspectives.

Who facilitates and what are their responsibilities?

Your role as a facilitator is to encourage participation and keep the dialogue on track. Making sure no one person dominates the conversation and all have an opportunity to contribute.

Can I post content to social media during and after the program?

We encourage you to share your experience and excitement for the program. We do ask that any content you post about the program or sessions are not attributed to a particular individual. We are operating by the Chatham House Rule in order to encourage an open and participatory environment.