

To The Editor of The Wall Street Journal:

Of how many lies is The Wall Street Journal capable in one editorial? I count at least 10 in “Dissidents at Dartmouth.” Given how many Dartmouth alumni work on the editorial page of the paper, you should be embarrassed and ashamed.

Let’s start at the top:

1. “Left Leaning Faction” -- the members of the Alumni Governance Task Force prominently included members of the DAOG, the “right leaning” Dartmouth Alumni for Open Governance. Their leadership voted for the new constitution at the Alumni Council meeting in May.
2. “New Hampshire school’s insular establishment” – the President of Dartmouth did NOT go to Dartmouth (he is a proud graduate of the University of Wisconsin). The Governor of New Hampshire, also on the Board, did not go to Dartmouth. This past year’s commencement speaker was Elie Wiesel. How less insular can you get?
3. “..from a slate nominated by a small, mostly unelected Committee” – the slate is selected and voted on by the entire Alumni Council, with over 100 members, each one of which is elected by a class, a club or another Dartmouth-related organization.
4. “The remaining seats, reserved for major donors ..” – That would come as quite a surprise to some of those trustees, many of whom have never given major gifts to Dartmouth. By the way, trustees are limited to two terms, and their second term is by selection of the other Trustees, not an election. That’s how most of the “non-elected” remain on the Board. It has nothing to do with money.
5. “... all three were unexpectedly elected by wide margins” – none of them actually got more than 30% of the votes cast. The old constitution required that the Alumni Council nominate three people for each seat. The “dissidents” ran one. Given that all three of the Council nominees were always highly qualified, the fact that they split the vote for the Council’s nominees is not surprising. But, together, every year, they got 70% of it.
6. “... general alumni discontent over how Dartmouth is being run.” – Dartmouth’s alumni gave a record level of money to the College Fund this year and participation has continued to increase. The capital campaign to raise \$1.2 billion is on track to achieve its goal. And., let me repeat, 70% supported the so-called “official” candidates.
7. “... the Alumni Council, already a bureaucratic labyrinth...” – Over the past two years, survey after survey of Alumni Councilors has shown their frustration with an organization that has no real structure, no purpose accepted by the Administration and absolutely no power, other than to nominate Trustees. Then they voted themselves out of existence if the new constitution is passed. Hardly the hallmarks of a bureaucratic labyrinth.
8. “... the maneuver would entrench leadership...” – The successors for every important volunteer organization, including the Alumni Council, have already been nominated AND elected. Or did I miss something when I nominated my successors?
9. “The academic establishment wants to consolidate its authority ...” Not a single member of the faculty, not a single dean was involved in the drafting of and deliberations over the new constitution.
10. “... we trust its graduates are bright enough” – Obviously Paul Gigot isn’t, or he would have recognized this pack of lies for what it is.

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