

Excerpt from an email dated 10/9/08 from the Trustee Alumni Relations Committee:

“We had a good discussion among our committee last weekend in Hanover and have agreed to proceed in the following manner:

1) As you know Dartmouth will be commencing a search process for our next President. Over the next couple of months a search committee will be formed, and while this search process is still in the very early planning stages, it is likely to involve significant outreach to multiple Dartmouth stakeholders, including alumni. The topic of Dartmouth's mission is likely to be important part of this dialogue with alumni, and thus we believe that this process is the best way to engage with alumni on the topic of Dartmouth's mission.

2) The Trustee Alumni Relations Committee decided to embrace the topic of "health of undergraduate education at Dartmouth" as our primary focus for the next year. We envision three broad phases of this process.

a. First, during April and May Dean of Faculty Carol Folt will meet with Alumni Groups in New York (April 2), Washington (April 23), Boston (April 30), Los Angeles (May 28), and San Francisco (May 29) to directly address the topic of undergraduate education of Dartmouth. These will be interactive sessions and should be a good opportunity for alumni to get the basic facts on this topic and directly put their questions to Carol.

b. Second, over the summer the Trustee Alumni Relations Committee will publish a report to all alumni that addresses the topic of health of undergraduate education at Dartmouth. This report will synthesize the facts/data/analysis on this topic, lay out the College's goals in this area as well as summarize the key questions raised by Alumni at the sessions this spring. The goal is to get a common set of facts and perspectives in the hands of all alumni.

c. Third, this will provide a foundation for further dialogue on this topic over the next academic year. We envision encouraging a series of articles, podcasts, and other alumni roundtable discussions about undergraduate education. Ideally different alumni organizations can embrace this topic into their ongoing processes --- for instance a Dartmouth Club could orient one of their regular meetings on undergraduate education, or the ALC and Alumni Council can engage Class Representatives on this topic, etc. The ultimate goal is that by the spring of the next academic year, all alumni are better versed on this topic and have had an opportunity to have their perspectives heard...

Thanks

John Donahoe
Christine Bucklin
Brad Evans
Ed Haldeman
Peter Robinson

Members of Trustee Alumni Relations Committee”