

The logo for the Dartmouth Alumni Council is displayed within a dark green rectangular box. The word "Dartmouth" is written in a white, serif font, and "Alumni Council" is written below it in a smaller, white, italicized serif font.

Dartmouth
Alumni Council

Gentlemen of the Class of '60:

Nostalgia never fails to be fed to the fullest on these weekends. New Hampshire weather was exactly as it has always been: I arrived in 60 degree weather and I drove home in the first snowstorm of the season. Dusk settled over Baker and the Green as I looked out of my hotel room window and suddenly in the center of the Green the three-story high Christmas tree blazed in red, white and blue. The welcome couldn't have been better.

This is a preliminary and short version of my report on the proceedings of the 199th Alumni Council Report. A fuller version will follow within a few weeks after I receive the minutes. As usual, I will also post the full version on our website.

The need to save another \$100 million over the next two years. This was undoubtedly the most important topic of the weekend! Everything is on the table, President Kim announced. But some things are obviously more "cut-able" than others. The quality of the faculty and thereby of the class room experience of students remains the first priority; to assure that no student misses out on Dartmouth because of money is another. This does not mean, though, that the entire complex of financial aid will not be thoroughly reviewed. President Kim does not think, for example, if I read him right, that graduating with a student loan in one's portfolio is not necessarily a disaster. I happen to agree. The possibilities to generate additional income with existing resources will also be examined. A detailed plan how to get to the \$100 million will be presented to the Trustees in February 2010.

The Alumni Council nominated two candidates for the two open trustee slots. The two nominees are outstanding candidates. Our own Mort Kondracke summed up his candidacy very simply. "Enough already," he said, referring to the bickering between the different alumni factions. And John Replogle '88, reminded everyone what Dartmouth has meant to everyone of us and still does. Mort's strength is his lifelong experience in communications and the dissection of many different types of problems. John brings to the table the experience of having founded, built and managed a major manufacturing company. Details on Mort and John will be forthcoming shortly.

It is expected that there will be at least one and possibly more petition candidates for each of the two open trusteeships to run against Kondracke and Replogle. Although past experience tells me that every candidate running for a spot on the Board of Trustees has only the best intentions for

our alma mater (even if I don't necessarily agree with their approaches sometimes), I do suggest that you strongly consider Mort and John for the two open slots. They certainly do not agree with everything that goes on at Dartmouth, they certainly can communicate their viewpoints and they certainly appear to me to be two guys willing to stand up to their fellow trustees and the other vested interests that make up the College's constituency, i.e. primarily the administration, the faculty, the students and the alumni, when and as necessary.

I'll report on the two topics above in greater detail and the rest of the stuff as soon as possible. We endeavored to learn or relearn the Salty Dog Rag at the DOC house to properly celebrate the DOC's 100th anniversary. D's rankings in the various national polls were analyzed. I heard a fascinating lecture on Islamists and their view of themselves and the rest of the world. (There were also alternate lectures on preparedness for this pandemic and the potential demise of the polar bear.) The update on the Visual Arts Center reminded me of the updates 50 years ago on Hopkins Center. Two alumni were presented with the D Alumni Award. Sherri Oberg '82, Tu '86, one of the most recently appointed trustees, gave a superb report and held an illuminating Q&A session on the work of the Board of Trustees. The Director of Alumni Information Resources explained the lay of the land of social networking from which I took away that today's students and recent graduates, technologically and communicationally (that's not a word in the dictionary, but you know what I mean), not only live on a different planet than we but well beyond our solar system. Finally we heard the latest on ROTC.

Have a wonderful Christmas, a great Hanukah and in general a healthy holiday season . . . as well as a comfortable slide into 2010.

Axel