

Plan for a Dartmouth Class Adoption of Non-Classmates

I. Introduction – Why Adoption?

- A. Classes age and eventually may need outsiders to step in and assist the class in remaining viable from the standpoint of administration and communication.
- B. Involved non-classmates can often add, or have already added, selected expertise, initiative, energy and interest to a shrinking Class, an otherwise mediocre Class and even to an otherwise achieving Class with solid leadership.
- C. Adoption, formal or informal, as a form of recognition of contribution to the Class, currently or in the anticipated future.

II. Who Does the Class Want to Adopt?

- A. Spouses?
- B. Widows/widowers?
- C. Significant others?
- D. Dartmouth College personnel who have specifically assisted the Class over a period of time?
- E. Outside unrelated persons who have specifically assisted the Class over a period of time?

III. How Many Adoptions Are Being Planned?

- A. One or only a few at a time?
- B. Mass adoption of all spouses and/or widows/widowers and/or other specified outside groups?
- C. “Formal” versus “informal” adoption?

IV. “Formal” Versus “Informal” Adoption

- A. Formal Adoption by the Class and the College (no informal adoption at the College level permitted).
 - 1. Formal adoption by the College automatically necessitates formal adoption by the Class of that applicant.
 - 2. There is no College precedent for the mass adoption of Class spouses or any other large group (would cause significant distortions to statistical comparisons between classes).
 - 3. In the entire history of Dartmouth, the College has formally adopted less than 300 people.
 - 4. Applications submitted by a Class for formal College approval will normally be approved by the College if considered to be in the best interests of the Class and not of any adverse interest to the College.
 - 5. Formal adoption by the Class and the College automatically imparts certain rights and obligations to the approved applicant added to the College rolls (e.g. he/she will be treated as equivalent to a fully matriculated, whether or not graduated, member of the Class in question, including addition

to the Class' DCF and Class' dues bases plus the DAM and other subscription rolls, with the sole exception that he/she will not be able to vote for a College Trustee when such vote occurs).

6. Other Class benefits may not be granted to or other Class restrictions placed upon any classmate formally adopted by both the Class and the College.
 7. Non-classmate Class officers, especially a College specified core class officer (i.e. Class president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer), would be prime candidates for formal adoption by both the College and the Class.
- B. Informal Adoption by the Class (adoption as "honorary classmates")
1. Adoptions by the Class only are really informal "honorary adoptions" as far as the College is concerned and as such is not recognized at the College level.
 2. The Class' onstitution alone will dictate what rights and obligations will be in effect for that adopted person or group.

V. Process for "Formal" Adoption by the Class (and College)

- A. Maximum of one or two applicants at a time.
- B. A separate written application must be filed by the Class for each applicant approved by the Class' officers or Class' executive committee or entire Class membership, as defined within the Class' Constitution.

- C. Formal adoption of the applicant by the College implies formal adoption by the Class of that applicant.
- D. The College has no objection to formally adopting any spouses and widows/widowers (but not significant others) formally adopted by that Class, and in fact encourages a limited number of same in the older shrinking Classes, especially those designated as core Class officers.

VI. Process for “Informal” Adoption by the Class Only

- A. College is not involved, except to a minor degree regarding administration of what the Class is intending and that such adoption is not in conflict with any of the College’s by-laws and/or regulations.
- B. Informal adoption as “Honorary Class Members” by the Class can be for any individual or group of individuals, as permitted by the Class’ Constitution and as voted upon by the Class’ officers and/or Class’ executive committee and/or entire Class membership, as defined within the Class’ Constitution.
 - 1. Differences between “formal” and “informal” adoption is entirely Class directed.
 - 2. Difference between the two may be based on the level of Class approval required.
 - 3. Differences between the two may pertain to the rights and obligations that exist for each such category, as conferred by the Class’ Constitution.

C. Adoption by the Class can include:

1. Spouses and/or widows/widowers and/or significant others and/or any other viable outside person or group of people.
2. Any number of members from any of the aforementioned categories, based on criteria established solely by the Class.

D. The Class' Constitution alone shall state what rights and obligations shall exist for each group of informally adopted classmates.

1. Right to vote on Class matters (e.g. full-vote versus half-vote for each of two spouses or significant others; right to vote dependent upon adopted Class member being current in their dues payment; right to vote granted to spouses, but not to widows/widowers).
2. Right to hold any or only selected Class officer positions, either by election or appointment.
3. Obligation to pay Class dues in whole or in part for any informally adopted category.
4. Automatic removal of widows/widowers and/or significant others when such status no longer holds true (e.g. the widow/widower remarries; the significant other relationship ends).

VII. Conclusion

A. Formal adoption - by the Class and the College

- 1- Class must approve each nominated applicant in accordance with its respective Class' Constitution and submit a written application for each individual applicant to the College's Alumni Relations Office.
- 2- College's Alumni Relations Office will approve (or not approve) each applicant on an individual basis.

B. Informal adoption - by the Class only ("Honorary Classmate")

- 1- No formal approval is required by the College.
- 2- Class must approve each applicant or each category of applicants in accordance with the process contained within that Class' Constitution.
- 3- Any Class approving an informal adoption of any individual or group shall notify the College's Office of Alumni Relations in writing of such class-approved adoption in writing within 30 days.

Class of 1961
August, 2018
