

Minutes

D'61 Class Officers' Meeting at COW

September 19, 2015

Attending the Meeting: Denny Denniston, Vic Rich, Ivar Jozus, Harris McKee, Robert Conn, Hank Eberhardt, Maynard Wheeler, Rog McArt, John Damon

Absent from the Meeting: Ken DeHaven, Jim Baum, Dave Prewitt, Pete Palin, Pete Bleyler, Oscar Arslanian, Nyla Arslanian, Mike Murphy, Tom Conger

Invited Guests: None

Denny Denniston, class president, called the meeting to order at approximately ??? PM EDT. He thanked all of the class officers for their efforts individually and as a group in helping the class of 1961 to achieve the Class of the Year award for the fiscal year 2014/2015, noting that this was the first time our class had ever won the award and that we had never before even been a runner-up. This was quite an achievement for us after 54 years as an alumni class.

55th Reunion Communication. A discussion ensued about the need for multi-level communications (via print, email, telephone, personal contact) to all class members in order to maximize attendance at our 55th Reunion scheduled for June 13-16, 2016. The goal was not only to encourage maximum attendance to the event, but to also make all classmates feel welcome and excited about returning to Dartmouth — including especially those classmates who have been disengaged from the College and from the class for an extended period of time. Because of increasing age and infirmities, this could be the last large gathering of our class.

DCF Goals. A further discussion ensued about our Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) goals for the current fiscal reunion year: \$610,000 in dollars and 80% participation among classmates. Both goals were again deemed to be reasonable and achievable by our class. Denny stressed that the class selected a very modest dollar goal so that it would not become the focal point of the reunion effort, but hopefully we will exceed it.

BTS. The next discussion centered around the Bartlett Tower Society (BTS) membership from our class. Denny stressed that our goal of achieving at least 55 members by the time of our 55th Reunion was more than reasonable since we already had 46 classmates signed up, which represents only 7% of our list of eligible classmates. Our class is currently ranked 28th among all classes. Denny stressed to John Damon, co-chair of the class' BTS effort (Pete Palin, the other co-chair, was not in attendance) that the

solicitation effort would only be successful if there was an articulated and written plan of the effort to be put forth over the next 9 months until our 55th Reunion in June 2016 in order for our class BTS participation to reach a level of excellence and for the next five years in order to remain there. Denny requested that such plan be completed and submitted to the class officers prior to the next scheduled class officers conference call on Oct. 7, 2015.

John stated that it was important to explain to prospective BTS classmates that they could become members of BTS by indicating in a codicil to their Will (or directly in their will) that they wanted to leave Dartmouth either a stated dollar amount or a fixed percentage of their residual estate (or their gross estate). He again stressed that the amount of the donation in the will did not have to be extensive (as several classmates apparently believed); it was the thought that counts.

Robert Frost Statue/Art Contest. The next discussion centered around the Frost statue renovation and the our 55th Reunion project and The '61 Robert Frost Statue Art Contest. Based on classmate observations, the area has been ribboned off but no renovation work appears to have yet taken place. Mike Murphy had been told by Buildings and Grounds that the renovation of the area would be completed by the end of the year (the sooner the better, since both the statue and the area need a good clean-up and facelifting). Vic Rich reported that, thanks to an introduction by classmate Rick Reed and his daughter, he was able to get directly to George Lundeen, the sculptor of the Robert Frost statue. Mr. Lundeen was very friendly. He was pleased that the area surrounding the statue was to be renovated and improved and was very excited about the multi-faceted art contest that our class was sponsoring and open to all "D" undergraduate and graduate students during the current school year. As a result, George has agreed to become involved with the project by lending his name and perhaps his personal participation, the degree to which will be the subject of further discussion after Vic sends him a menu of possibilities. In addition, Vic has met with and spoken to the editor-in-chief of the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine about publishing an article about the Robert Frost statue and/or the Frost Statue Art Contest. He seemed amenable to the idea and requested further thoughts and details, which Vic promised to send to him.

Women's Initiative Committee. The next discussion dealt with the '61 Women's Initiative Committee; unfortunately, Nyla Arslanian was away on vacation (with husband, Oscar, we hope), so that she was unnamable to participate. Denny stressed that Jim Baum, 55th Reunion chair, should get the committee involved in the marketing effort to maximize classmate and spouse/significant other attendance at the reunion and in developing a women's segment of the reunion schedule.

Mini-Reunion. The next discussion centered around potential short mini-reunions which Denny wanted to take place between now and our 55th reunion next June. It was again affirmed that the class would not hold any large multi-day mini-reunions out of Hanover prior to our 55th reunion, as it would tend to divert our attention and energies from maximizing attendance and event planning for our 55th reunion. However, Denny stressed that a series of micro-mini reunions (e.g. dinners or luncheons, with or without attachment to some related event) could be very useful in bringing classmates together within selected geographic areas, hopefully including some classmates who have not been involved with the class for a significant period of time. One suggestion was possibly to attempt to coincide the dinners or luncheons with visits and presentations by D's President Hanlon in or near the areas selected. Several locations had been mentioned at the September class officers' telephone conference/meeting and it was important to lock in locations and classmate coordinators begin these micro-minis as soon as possible. Also, someone mentioned having a virtual micro-mini reunion on the 61st day of 2016. More to follow.

Website. During the next discussion, Harris McKee (class website editor, among other titles) stated that the class was in the process of shifting over to the use of I-Modules for class administrative purposes.

Re-engaging. The final discussion, led by Denny, related to the need and the desire of the class officers as a group to re-engage previously disengaged classmates. One thought was to establish a "class connectivity officer" to lead a "class connectivity committee" or "class outreach committee". This idea will be discussed further at the next monthly class officers conference call in October. Vic suggested installing an "Invite a Classmate to our 55th Reunion" committee (ICR), to personally invite individual classmates to our 55th Reunion, especially those classmates who had drifted from the class during the passing decades.

Reunion Class of the Year. Before closing the meeting, Vic said that the class had proven itself by winning Class of the Year last evening and that with a few successful additions and improvements, we were more than capable of winning Reunion Class of the Year for the current fiscal year. Someone on the "D" Class Officers Executive Committee referred to the class of 1961 as "The Little Engine That Could" (after the children's book of that title), and justifiably so!

Denny adjourned the class meeting at approximately xxx PM EDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Rich, '61 Class Secretary