

Minutes

D'61 Class Officers Conference Call

March 8, 2017

Attending the Meeting: Don O'Neill, Denny Denniston, Vic Rich, Ivar Jozus, Harris McKee, Roger McArt, Hank Eberhardt, Oscar Arslanian, Maynard Wheeler, Red Facher, Dave Prewitt, Patti Rich, Joan Prewitt

Absent from the Meeting: Gerry Kaminsky, Dave Armstrong, Pete Bleyler, Tom Conger, David Birney, Nyla Arslanian

Invited Guests: Janet Rosa, Vince Wilson

Don O'Neill, class president, called the meeting to order at 12:02PM EST.

He then called for approval of the Minutes for the February 8, 2017 conference call/meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve such minutes and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Vic Rich, class secretary, reported that the class had received a handwritten note from the Dartmouth swimming and diving coach thanking the Class of 1961 for its contribution to and support of the Colleges Athletics Sponsorship Program, which last year was allocated to recruiting talented swimmers and divers. Also, he received a note from The Dowds' Country Inn offering to host the class for one of its mini-reunion dinners, which note he passed on to Maynard Wheeler as the class mini-reunion co-chair for on-campus mini-reunions. On behalf of the class, Vic sent a welcome note to Mike Griesi, the new (third) Assistant Director of the Dartmouth Class Activities Office. Finally, Pete Bleyler sent Vic an email showing a poster that was being used by an apparent College affiliated company recently established to provide commercial marketing/printing services to the general public, using a large photograph of the Robert Frost statue at Dartmouth in its advertising content ---- thus further recognizing the inherent and enduring value of the Robert Frost statue contributed by the Class of 1961 to Dartmouth over 20 years ago. At the recent conference call among members of the Class Officers Association Executive Board (COAEB), it was announced that the Alumni Council's Alumni Liaison Committee had recently sent an email to all class presidents encouraging an active partnership between Alumni Council class representatives and the class presidents and their class executive committees "on the exchange of sentiment between alumni and the College".

Treasurer's Report

Ivar Jozus, class treasurer, reported that our cash balance was currently \$76,100, with no outstanding debts. Our class dues contributions were at 54% and dues payments were still trickling in. A third and final dues notice would be going out soon to classmates.

Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) Report

Harris McKee and Hank Eberhardt, co-DCF chairs for our class along with Rog McArt, reported that some more additional class agents have been added and trained. Harris, Hank and Rog then reported that for the current fiscal year to date, the class had received \$118,674 in cash and pledges versus a class dollar goal of \$261,000, or 45.5% to date (which was apparently well ahead of the College's percentage dollar goal achievement to date). The contributions to date have come from 163 classmates versus a class participation goal of 380 classmates, or 42.9% of goal to date. If the class achieves contributions from 380 classmates by June 30th, it will have achieved its stated very high participation goal of 76% for the current year. Hank noted that there were still 5 class officers out of 19, or 26.3%, who had not yet donated to DCF or submitted a pledge and that 100% participation was anticipated, as in most past years. Also, several class donation leaders had not yet committed.

Conference calls between Don, Gerry, Denny, Roger, Harris, Hank and Vince to discuss class DCF matters will continue and the designated class "swat teams" will begin their efforts shortly. Vince commented that another DCF solicitation letter to classmates was scheduled to be mailed in the near future. Don concluded the DCF conversation with the comment that there would again be a DCF competition between classes of 1961 from Dartmouth and from Princeton.

Class Communications Plan

Vic Rich, co-chair with Harris McKee, reported that a "final" draft of the class communications plan had been completed and approved by a core group of five class officers and sent out to all class officers prior to the conference call date to review and comment upon. As there were no additional comments, Don asked that the '61 Class Communications Plan be formally adopted and approved, which approval vote was unanimous. Vic stated that he would submit a copy of the 4-page document to the Class Activities Office of the Dartmouth Alumni Association. Harris said that he will post the Communications Plan on our class website and that he would work with Tom Conger to insert the Communications Plan in our next class newsletter.

Webmaster's Report/Class Virtual Reunion

Harris McKee, class webmaster, stated that apart from the class' holding its first ever '61 Virtual Reunion in March, there was nothing significant to report. With respect to our Virtual Reunion, held on March 2, 2017 (the 61st day of the year), Harris stated that the event was a significant success, especially considering that it was our class' first virtual reunion and that our class was technologically challenged compared to all of the younger classes. Credit should be given to Harris for his numerous detailed emails to classmates reminding them about our first ever virtual reunion and providing detailed instructions on how to participate. Harris reported that 40 classmates (including 10 class officers) participated along with 9 spouses, significant others and a few grandchildren. Several reported in from the ski slopes of Utah and Colorado, which is impressive based on the age of our classmates. Others reported in from the beaches and swimming pools of Florida, which is a more age appropriate location. One classmate (Hop Holmberg) even reported in from a foreign country (Mexico – prior to the construction of the wall). Harris then edited and posted all of the responses and pictures in a separate folder on our class website.

Bartlett Tower Society (BTS)

Red Facher, class BTS co-chair along with Dave Armstrong, reported that he had signed up three new classmates to become members of the BTS. After their paperwork is completed, our class will have increased its BTS membership from 59 to 62. Dave unexpectedly was not available to attend the conference call and did not submit his progress report.

Class Project

Much discussion was then centered on what our next significant class project should be. Vic stated that Vic, Oscar and Pete tried to remember when selecting a class project to stay within the directive from the class officers that any project selected hopefully would include the arts at Dartmouth, a tie-in to "our" Robert Frost statue and/or Robert Frost himself, and the active engagement of the "D" undergraduate student body (and possibly also the graduate student body). Also, the class officers had deemed it desirable to include a contest or competition of some sort, with monetary stipends and/or other awards going to the winners. The specific projects recommended by Vic Rich and Pete Bleyler were reviewed and discussed in detail, with no affirmative conclusion reached by the class officers attending the conference call. As the allotted time for the conference call was running out, Don decided to postpone any decision until there could be further thought and discussion during the period preceding the next class officers conference call.

Mini-Reunions

Dave Prewitt, co-chair of off-campus mini-reunions with his spouse, Joan Prewitt, noted briefly that our next mini-reunion was scheduled to be held in Newport, RI from May 20-23, 2018 at Gurney's Newport Resort (formerly the Hyatt Regency). A preliminary schedule of class activities, significant locations to visit in Newport, costs and means to register were all included in an email just recently sent out by Harris on March 6th to all classmates with available email addresses. More correspondence will follow.

Class and Classmate Alumni Awards Archive

Denny Denniston has taken charge of the class and classmate alumni awards archive project, which would create a permanent written record of all alumni awards achieved by our class and classmates since graduation. Denny, with assistance from the Alumni Class Activities Office, has developed a list of all DCF awards achieved by our class and various classmates through the decades and Vic was in the process of deriving a list of general awards won by our class and classmates since graduation, which list would cover the annual Class of the Year awards (COTY), runner-up to COTY awards and Class Special Recognition Awards, as well as the any Outstanding Alumni Awards won by classmates through the years.

Don announced that the next class officers conference call/meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at noon EST.

Don adjourned the meeting at 12:58PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Rich '61 Class Secretary