

**Minutes**  
**D'61 Class Officers Conference Call**  
**June 14, 2017**

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**Attending the Meeting:** Don O'Neill, Denny Denniston, Vic Rich, Ivar Jozus, Harris McKee, Roger McArt, Pete Bleyler, Oscar Arslanian, Nyla Arslanian, Patti Rich

**Absent from the Meeting:** Gerry Kaminsky, Hank Eberhardt, Dave Prewitt, Red Facher, Maynard Wheeler, Dave Armstrong, Tom Conger, Joan Prewitt

**Invited Guests:** Vince Wilson

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Denny Denniston, class vice-president, called the meeting to order at noon EDT.

He then called for approval of the Minutes for the May 10, 2017 conference call/meeting. A motion was made and seconded to approve such Minutes and they were approved unanimously.

**Secretary's Report**

Vic Rich, class secretary, in the absence of Maynard Wheeler (chair of Hanover located class mini-reunions) reported that our Fall class mini-reunion is scheduled for October 6-8, 2017. Since these dates coincide with Homecoming Weekend, rooms will be at a premium. Classmates who are planning to attend should plan to get rooms as soon as possible (see list of hotels/motels previously sent out by Maynard), complete the registration form sent out by Harris and return it to Maynard so that he can plan class events accordingly. Maynard informed us that the keynote guest speaker at the dinner on Saturday evening will be Mary Lou Aloskie, the new head of the HOP.

Vic also reported that at the recent Alumni Council meeting in May, 2017, Vic and Al Rozycki (both current Council members) had dinner with Pete Bleyler (former Council member) and their respective spouses.

Finally, Vic also reported that it was announced that the annual *David Birney Award for Excellence in the Theatre Arts*, established in 1980, had recently been presented to two outstanding students in theatre arts, one from the class of 2017 and one from the class of 2019. In addition, Maynard Wheeler (with Pete and Ruth Bleyler also present) recently

presented the annual *Class of 1961 Dartmouth Arts Initiative Award* to an undergraduate student whose specialty is creating jewelry made of gold and/or silver.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ivar Jozus, class treasurer, reported that our current cash balance was approximately \$75,000, with no outstanding debts. Our class dues contributions were at 56% with a few more dues payments anticipated by year-end (June 30<sup>th</sup>). During May, Ivar remitted \$1,500 to the Class of 1961 Arts Initiative Award.

### **Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) Report**

Harris McKee, co-DCF chair for our class along with Rog McArt and Hank Eberhardt, reported that the class to date had received \$195,534 in cash and pledges versus a class dollar goal of \$261,000, or 75% to date (which to date apparently was ahead of the College's percentage dollar goal achievement). The contributions to date have come from 289 classmates versus a class participation goal of 377 classmates, or 77% of its goal to date. If the class achieves contributions from 380 classmates by June 30<sup>th</sup>, it will have achieved its stated very high participation goal of 76% of all eligible classmates for the current year.

Don reported that the conference calls between Don, Gerry, Denny, Roger, Harris, Hank and Vince to discuss class DCF matters will be continued. The designated class "swat teams" are in place and have begun their efforts to contact classmates. With respect to the DCF competition between the classes of 1961 from Dartmouth and from Princeton, we were ahead in dollars collected but behind in participation.

In closing, Harris reported that our top class agents in contacting classmates and soliciting contributions to date were Hank Eberhardt, Bill Glenn, Art Kelton and Larry Levy, all of whom had achieved a completion rate of over 90% of those names on their respective lists.

### **Class Communications Plan**

Vic Rich, reported several classes interested in better organizing and improving the communications process within their respective classes had been given a copy of our class' communication plan as a guide. Two such classes even contacted us directly for further information.

### **Webmaster's Report**

Harris McKee, class webmaster, stated that he had nothing of significance to report as webmaster, except that he had responded to the president of the Class of 1965 as to what our class was distributing by email on a regular basis to all classmates having an email link.

However, as class memorialist, he reported that three classmates had passed away during the past three weeks and that eight classmates had passed away from the beginning of the current fiscal year, July 1, 2016 to date (11.5 months). Obit updates are posted on the class website, our class newsletter (*Wide Wide World*) and on the online version of the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine ("DAM"). Our class recently received a citation from the director of the DAM for our extensive and thorough handling of classmate obits.

In the absence of Tom Conger, class newsletter editor, Harris reported that our class issues three extensive newsletters per fiscal year, all subsidized in whole or in part by the College, with the latest edition issued in May of this year.

### **Bartlett Tower Society (BTS)**

Neither Red Facher nor Dave Armstrong, co-BTS chairs, were able to attend the conference call and no BTS report update was submitted.

### **Class Project**

Pete Bleyler, co-chair of the Class Project Selection Committee along with Vic Rich and Oscar Arslanian, reported on the two part class project(s) agreed to by the committee after much discussion.

One project will be called the *Class of 1961 Robert Frost Literature Award*, which will be awarded annually to an undergraduate D student who comes up with the best proposed literature project on any subject related to Robert Frost and/or the Robert Frost statue on campus. The project is to be administered by the English Dept., but the Class of '61 will seek to place a classmate as a participant in the selection process.

The other project will be called the *Class of 1961 Arts Initiative Award*, which will be awarded annually to an undergraduate D student who comes up with the best proposed project in any form of studio arts or visual arts. This project is to be administered by the Hopkins Center, but the Class of '61 will seek to place a classmate as a participant in the selection process.

Pete stated that the committee took into account when selecting the two-part 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. Also, the committee included a contest, with monetary stipends and/or other awards going to the winners annually in the minimum amount of \$1,500 to each.

Required funding for the two projects is anticipated to be \$80,000 under a single endowment containing the two related projects, of which approximately \$40,000 will be provided by the class treasury surplus and the remaining approximately \$40,000 will be provided by contributions from classmates over the next four years, culminating with our 60<sup>th</sup> Class Reunion.

After the two projects become fully approved and are in process, the committee intends to approach the Class of 2011 and ask them to co-partner in one or both projects, by contributing funding hopefully equal to that from our class and eventually by becoming involved in the selection process administration aspect of the project(s) and in the award recipient’s presentation of the results of the project(s) annually to the 1961/2011 classmates. If the Class of 2011 agrees, we would be able to perpetuate the two endowed projects effectively for at least the next 50 or 60 years, which is long after all of the 1961 classmates are gone.

After some discussion, Don called for a vote and the class officers unanimously approved the aforementioned two related projects as stated, subject to any necessary or desired minor amendments necessary to move forward and/or to optimize the success of the two projects. Don will request the approval from classmates for the projects at our next regularly scheduled class meeting, scheduled to take place during our class mini-reunion in Hanover on October 6-8, 2017.

### **Mini-Reunions (Off-Campus)**

Neither Dave Prewitt nor Joan Prewitt, co-chairs of off-campus mini-reunions, were able to attend the conference call and no report was submitted. It was again noted, however, that our next off-campus mini-reunion will be held in Newport, RI from May 20-23, 2018 at Gurney’s Newport Resort. A preliminary schedule of class activities, significant locations to visit in Newport, costs and means to register were all included in an email recently sent out to all classmates with available email addresses.

### **Women’s Initiative Committee**

Nyla Arslanian, co-chair with Patti Rich, reported that Joan Prewitt had been added to the committee and that the contact list of all interested ’61 spouses and widows had been completed and circulated. Nyla repeated that primary purpose of this group was to act as a support group to share life issues, develop/strengthen relationships among classmates and

among their spouses/significant others/widows, especially during class reunions and mini-reunions. Nyla stated that the committee intends soon to set up a conference call to include spouses and significant others of former '61 class presidents, current class officers and selected others who have expressed an interest in supporting and enhancing the class.

Nyla stated that the committee had recently submitted an article to the '61 class newsletter and class website. In addition, other projects in progress are 1) written communications and/or telephone calls with widows and significant others of deceased classmates going forward and 2) regional lunches and/or dinners for classmate wives and significant others (e.g. Hanover area; NY metropolitan area; LA, CA area; Phila., PA area; other areas).

### **Class and Classmate Alumni Awards Archive**

There was no time for Denny Denniston, who had 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, to present an update.

### **Special Recognition Awards Committee**

There was no time for Dave Prewitt, chair of the committee (consisting of Dave, Vic, Denny and Harris), to present an update of where the committee stood on developing criteria to evaluate classmate nominees, how many to select for the initial presentation and when to hold the initial awards ceremony.

Don announced that the next class officers conference call/meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2017 at noon EDT.

Before adjourning the meeting, Don mentioned that Art Kelton had recently been selected at Alumni Council meeting in May to receive the Outstanding Dartmouth Alumni Award, which will be presented to Art during the October, 2017 Alumni Council meeting. Art is only the sixth person from our class to win this prestigious award.

Denny adjourned the meeting at 1:08PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Rich '61 Class Secretary