

Minutes D'61 Class Meeting October 7, 2017

Attending the Meeting: Don O'Neill, Vic Rich, Harris McKee, Pete Bleyler, Maynard Wheeler, Dave Prewitt, Jim Baum, Gim Burton, Bob Conn, Larry George, Joel Heathcote, Hop Holmberg, Dick Marrone, Al Rozycki, Ron Wybranowski, Patti Rich, Joani Prewitt

Invited Guests: Carol Baum, Ruth Bleyler, Eileen Burton, Helen George, Judy Holmberg, Mary McKee, Sandy Wheeler, Joan Wybranowski, Julia Cohen '18, Nelly Mendoza-Mendoza '19, Allison Block '19

Don O'Neill, class president, called the meeting to order at approximately 10AM and then read our class' written mission statement. He then welcomed the classmates and the class spouses/significant others in attendance. In the absence of the class treasurer, Ivar Jozus, Don stated that the class had approximately \$92,000 in the bank, no debts outstanding and a dues collection rate of 59%, one of the highest of all classes. Don then went on to mention a proposed intentional undergraduate expansion by the College over the next few years, with the dorms required to house those additional students to be built in whole or in part in the College Park area of the campus, near where our class' Robert Frost statue is located. Finally, Don briefly reviewed our successful class projects, both recurring and non-recurring, and then introduced Pete Bleyler to explain to everyone present at the the class meeting the current proposed dual-scope long-term project approved previously by the class officers.

Pete Bleyler reviewed with everyone present the long-term endowed class project, which would provide two stipends each year in the amount of at least \$1,500 each to two different deserving undergraduate students, one in the area of the arts and one in the area of academic research or thesis in conjunction with the John Sloan Dickey Center for international understanding. Pete stated that the project was created, modified and prepared for approval by a committee consisting of Oscar Arslanian, Vic Rich and Pete and already had been approved unanimously by the class officer group at a cost to the class of \$100,000 to create the required endowed fund. It was agreed that 50%, or \$50,000, of the endowed fund would come from excess funds accumulated by the class over the past several decades and that the other 50%, or \$50,000, would be derived from classmate contributions from today through June 30, 2020.

The amount projected to be spent by the class on this project exceeded the amount which the class officers could spend without first seeking the approval of a majority of classmates attending a public class meeting. After some brief discussion was concluded, Pete made a motion to approve the funding as described above for \$100,000. Such motion was seconded by several classmates and approved unanimously by all classmates attending the meeting. Pete thanked everyone for their support of the project.

Don then introduced Maynard Wheeler who, with Pete Bleyler, has been administering the class' end of each of the non-recurring academic, artistic and athletic stipends awarded each year, including inviting each of the students awarded a grant by our class to address our class each year during our annual on-campus mini-reunion during the Fall season.

Maynard then spoke briefly about our annual \$1,500 stipends awarded to undergraduate students each year to support their academic projects, art projects and athletics, and then introduced each of the three recipients in attendance.

- First to address the Class was Julia Cohen '18, an academic grant recipient as an anthropology major, whose project was reviewing the effects of the migration of foreigners into the United States on the supply and effectiveness of these immigrants as "caretakers" of people in the U.S. More specifically, the prior life and culture of these immigrants (especially Filipinos) contribute in what way to their work as "caretakers" in this country?.
- Second to address the Class was Nelly Mendoza-Mendoza '19, an arts initiative grant recipient who designs and creates original gold and silver jewelry and whose project encompassed the exploration and study of ancient Greek granulation in making jewelry.
- Third to address the Class was Allison Block '19, an academic grant recipient as a geography major studying public and global health in general and the maintenance of bananas as a sustainable food supply source in particular, looking specifically at the countries that produce bananas (e.g. Costa Rica) and the large multinational food companies that grow, package and ship this food source throughout the world.

Following the presentation by each student/grant recipient was an equally interesting Q and A session. In summary, all three students were articulate and their projects interesting to listen to and learn about.

The final segment of the class meeting was devoted to a presentation by Dave and Joani Prewitt on the latest update for the next off-campus '61 mini-reunion scheduled to take place in Newport, Rhode Island from May 20-23, 2018. In summary, they have a full schedule of assorted and diversified activities arranged and a great price negotiated for our class during that period and even extending for one or two days prior to and/or subsequent to the dates of the actual mini-reunion. For those of you who have never been to Newport before, it is a prime waterfront destination located at the entrance of the Long Island Sound from the Atlantic Ocean, with a lot of history and activities located within the immediate area. Dave reminded everyone that the time for classmate registration at the special price negotiated with the Gurney's Inn of Newport was not unlimited so, if interested, one needs to act soon.

Don thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the class meeting at approximately noon.

No specific date for the next class officers' conference call/meeting was scheduled at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Rich '61 Class Secretary