

Minutes

D'61 Class Officers /Executive Committee Teleconference

February 10, 2021

Attending the Meeting: Don O'Neill, Denny Denniston, Vic Rich, Ron Wybranowski, Harris McKee, Maynard Wheeler, Dave Prewitt, Henry Eberhardt, Oscar Arslanian, Nyla Arslanian, Patti Rich, Vince Wilson, Al Rozycki, Gim Burton, Mort Lynn, Glen Gemelli, Hop Holmberg, Art Kelton, Jon Sperling

Absent from Meeting: Gerry Kaminsky, Pete Bleyler, Rog McArt, Tom Conger, Bill Collishaw, Dave Armstrong, Joan Prewitt, Jim McElhinney

Invited Guests: None

Don O'Neill, Class President, called the meeting to order at noon EST.

Don asked for the approval of the Minutes for the January 13, 2021 class officers/executive committee teleconference meeting, which Minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Don welcomed the four newly nominated members to the Class' incoming executive committee (Hop Holmberg, Art Kelton, Jim McElhinney, Jon Sperling), two of whom who were able to attend the telecom.

Secretary's Report

Vic Rich, Class Secretary, reported that he had completed the Minutes for the January 13, 2021 class officers/executive committee teleconference.

Furthermore, Vic further updated DRAFT version #4 of the "D" related awards and recognitions received by the Class of 1961 and by '61 individual classmates for insertion into the Class' 60th Reunion booklet.

Vic attended (along with Harris McKee, Al Rozycki and Oscar Arslanian) D's virtual 2021 Social Justice Awards Ceremony on January 8th, where 5 annual awards were

presented. Vince Wilson received the Holly Fell Sateia Award and gave some excellent acceptance remarks and comments during the panel discussion which followed. Vic submitted a written congratulatory comment on behalf of the Class of 1961: "Congratulations to all five of the award recipients, but especially to Vince Wilson, recently adopted into the great Class of 1961. We are proud of you and your accomplishments."

Vic also submitted a write-up of a hastily put together virtual roundtable discussion held on February 8th among the class officers and executive committee members and a few other classmates still highly involved with the College in order to discuss the elimination last summer of five athletic teams at "D" (men's and women's swimming, men's and women's golf, men's lightweight crew) in order to give the D Admissions Office more flexibility to change its admissions priorities in order to satisfy "diversity and development objectives", only to be required to reverse course and reinstate all five teams in February 2021. The topics discussed were: 1) In plain and simple language, why was this action taken in the first place? 2) Who was involved in making and reviewing the decision? 3) Was the Alumni Council or any alumni constituency involved or even informed of the decision, with an opportunity to comment before being finalized? 4) What potential short-term and long-term positive and negative consequences were considered and evaluated prior to making a decision? 5) Are there any real or possible larger ramifications and possible future repercussions arising from the initial decision to eliminate and the subsequent decision to reinstate the five sports? and 6) What is the next step(s) under consideration with respect to the aforementioned? While our roundtable discussion was not able to resolve anything, it did enable us to better understand the immediate issue which occurred as well as discuss some possible post-event ramifications going forward and some of the broader underlying issues which may have to be dealt with as Dartmouth moves forward into a more complex world.

Finally, Vic communicated with several classmates and various members of the College's administration dealing with alumni matters in general and the Class of 1961 in particular, including but not limited to multiple communications with the four newly approved members of the '61 Executive Committee and with George Lundeen, now world-renown sculptor of the Robert Frost statue at Dartmouth, about having a picture of the Frost statue in D's annual monthly calendar for the second year in a row (month of May for 2021; month of December for 2020).

Treasurer's Report

Ron Wybranowski, Class Treasurer, reported that the Class' current cash balances as of January 13, 2021 totaled \$47,128 in the Class' checking account and \$11,048 in the Class' reunion/mini-reunion checking account, totaling \$58,276. Since July 1, 2019, the Class has collected dues of \$12,322 from 202 classmates at \$61 and voluntary contributions of \$9,380 from classmates for various existing class projects. For the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the Class has to date made a donation of \$2,500 to the Dartmouth Athletic Sponsors program and \$5,274 to other existing class projects. Expenses incurred by the Class with the College and paid to date have amounted to \$1,511.

After the upcoming virtual mini-reunion in early April, Ron will transfer additional funds from the Class' regular account to the Class' reunion/mini-reunion account so that the total in the reunion account will equal the \$16,000 agreed-to amount that the class will provide for a virtual 60th Reunion, plus any special gifts for the 60th Reunion received from classmates, et al, to be used exclusively for the 60th Reunion, less any 60th Reunion expenditures paid to date.

The second dues notice for the current fiscal year was sent by Ron to the College at the end of January and will mailed out to classmates in March. Dues collections for the current fiscal year are currently running significantly behind the prior year.

Finally, Ron reported that the '*61 Performing Arts Legacy Fund* in January had assets of approximately \$1,414,000 and the more recent *Robert Frost Legacy Fund* in January had assets of approximately \$108,000.

Nominating Committee Report

Dave Prewitt, chair, Art Kelton, Oscar Arslanian and Rog McArt comprise the Class of '61 current nominating committee. Dave reported that four more classmates had been invited and have agreed to become new at-large members of the Class' executive committee: Hop Holmberg, Art Kelton, Jim McElhinney, Jon Sperling. All four were approved with positive comments. The goal is to engage a total of ten new members of the '61 Executive Committee by our 60th Reunion; nine new members (including Vince Wilson) are now on board. An Invitation has gone out recently to one more classmate as a prospective additional member.

Don thanked the nominating committee for their excellent choices and efforts to date. He also requested that each new member of the executive committee

submit a brief description of their strengths and interests so that they can be assigned class tasks which they are both interested in and capable of handling.

Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) Class Report

Harris McKee, co-chair (along with Henry Eberhardt and Rog McArt) of our Class' DCF efforts, presented the Class' report of actual dollars contributed to date by classmates and number of classmates contributing to date versus projected goals for the Class of '61 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021:

- Our stated class DCF dollar goal is \$610,00 but our stretch dollar goal is \$725,000 for our 60th Reunion and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. As of January 13th, the Class has received \$417,921 in cash and firm pledges (\$337,128 cash received and firm pledges of \$80,793). Thus far, the Class has achieved 68.5% of its dollar goal and 57.7% of its stretch dollar goal.
- A Class DCF challenge plan entitled "60th Reunion Double-Double Challenge" is now activated to encourage more '61 donors to raise their projected donations by providing for matching incentive gifts from an anonymous classmate for any current year gift that equals or exceeds the greater of the classmate's gift for the 55th Reunion or doubles his/her gift for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. Several classmates already have accepted the challenge and qualified for the matching contribution.
- Our DCF participation goal was established at 72% for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Actual classmate contributors (including firm pledges) to date amount to 150, or 34%, including nearly all of the 27 current class officers and executive committee members (excluding spousal class officers whose husbands also serve as class officers). Another 169 contributors from our class are needed to reach our participation goal for the year.
- Henry Eberhardt noted that the Class of '61 to date led all other classes with its current interim participation rate of 34%. Henry then reviewed the class' "double-double matching program" with everyone. He went on to review the "Three P's of Successful Campaigning – Planning, Persistence, & Personal contact".

Henry emphasized that our 60th Reunion will be the last major reunion effort by our Class. As a result, we should go out on top, having achieved and possibly even exceeded both our 60th Reunion dollar goal and our participation goal.

D'61 On-Campus and/or Virtual Mini-Reunion Report (Quarterly)

Maynard Wheeler, on-campus and virtual mini-reunion chair, reported that the one-day virtual mini-reunion held on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 was a big success. A survey was submitted to all who attended, partially in order to get a more objective evaluation of the mini-reunion. The response (at 88%) was excellent (at 93%) and confirmed the preliminary positive evaluation by the class officers.

Maynard stated that the next one-day quarterly virtual mini-reunion has been scheduled for Tuesday April 6, 2021. The program will consist of a single program of 1.5 hours about the status of the public education system today in the U.S. The sole speaker will be classmate Mike Kirst, one of the most knowledgeable and well respected people in the field of public education today, and the moderator will be classmate Dave Blake. Following this will be another brief display of classmate art for 0.5 hour. The program will close with a 1.5 hour set of smaller breakout sessions discussing the various issues of public education today and tomorrow in this country, following with a summation general session.

Following this was a brief report of the annual Fall mini-reunion, planned to take place in October 2021, which probably will focus, as in past fall minis, on various undergraduate students to whom we provide financial grants under various class projects and possibly also include a discussion of a book by an alumnus or alumna. The big question at this time is whether the mini will take place live on campus or will remain virtual. Also unresolved at this time is whether or not there will be a Dartmouth at-home football game.

D'61 On-Campus Virtual 60th Reunion (Hanover, NH – June 2021)

Pete Bleyler, 60th Reunion chair, was unable to attend the meeting but did submit various update reports, which Vic Rich, a 60th Reunion committee member, will summarize.

1. The College recently mandated that there will be no alumni reunions held on campus this year. As Pete and his committee had anticipated this well in advance, there is no need to revise any of our 60th Reunion planning. Therefore, our 60th Reunion will be fully virtual and will take place on-line between June 14-17, 2021.
2. All aspects of promoting the 60th Reunion are scheduled and can now be implemented since the concept of a fully virtual 60th Reunion has now been

confirmed. A special link has been developed with the '61 Women's Initiative Committee, led by Nyla Arslanian and Patti Rich, to help promote attendance at the 60th Reunion by communicating directly with the spouses and widows of classmates.

3. All aspects of developing and implementing the program aspect of the 60th Reunion is currently being developed with substance topics for the speaker/roundtable discussion sessions and implemented primarily with classmates as speakers and moderators.
4. An extensive reunion booklet will be prepared for all classmates by Oscar and Nyla Arslanian. Among other things, it will include a detailed program of the events and the speakers/participants/other involved. It will also include a detailed historical archive of Dartmouth awards and citations which the Class has received and Dartmouth awards and citations which '61 classmates have received as well as significant positions held by '61s within the Dartmouth Alumni structure during the past 60 years. Finally, it will include a review of each of the Class' significant projects over 60 years.

Assisting Pete in this endeavor are Maynard Wheeler, Harris McKee and Ron Wybranowski, along with an extensive classmate and spouse/widow reunion committee members.

Robert Frost Endowed Class Project

Pete Bleyler, committee chair, was unable to attend the meeting and did not submit a report. However, based on various comments, there was nothing significant to report at this time. The dual project, consisting of grants provided to undergraduate students in accordance with the John Sloane Dickey Center/'61 Stephen Bosworth Award and the '61 Arts Legacy, appeared to be running smoothly.

Digital Content Manager/Webmaster's Report

Harris McKee, Class Digital Content Manager/Webmaster, reported that he had generated 19 class website updates, 14 iModules emails, and 1 MailChimp email to spouses. Although he is still working out some bugs with MailChimp, Harris believes that it could be a promising communications vehicle, especially with respect to spouses and widows.

In addition, Harris has greatly supported the ZOOM mechanical aspects of all class officer/executive committee meetings as well as all virtual mini-reunions, informal roundtable discussions and other virtual meetings/teleconferences.

Class of '61 Annual Birthday Party

Harris McKee, event chair, prepared the '61 logo sheet and notified all classmates, spouses and widows of our fifth annual Class birthday party on the 61st day of each calendar year, which this year will occur on March 2, 2021.

Memorialist's Report

Harris McKee, Class Memorialist, reported that during the past month we learned that four more classmates (Jack Penn, H. Lee Heap, John Barnes, Phil Oehler) had passed away and that obit notices had been published on the class website for those whom obit notices had been received. In addition, Harris notifies the Class Treasurer of the passing of each classmate and classmate spouse so that \$100 can be contributed to the '61 Performing Arts Legacy to honor each such person.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Tom Conger, Newsletter Editor, was unable to attend the meeting but reported that he was planning on publishing four issues of our class newsletter, *Wide Wide World*, for the current fiscal year ending June 30th, instead of the usual three issues. To date, three issues have already been published with the fourth issue to be published prior to the Class'60th Reunion in mid-June.

Bartlett Tower Society (BTS) Report

Dave Armstrong, Class BTS chair, was unable to attend the meeting and did not submit a report. However, Don O'Neill reported that he has been working with Dave to communicate with pre-selected classmates who appear to be good candidates for joining BTS. Several classmates have shown interest in this now simplified process and two are in the process of signing up with a testamentary bequest to the College.

Our original Class' goal for the current fiscal five-year period was to sign up an additional 33 BTS members by June 30, 2021; our Class currently has 67 BTS members. However, for several complex reasons, that goal (which was overly optimistic to begin with) should now be revised downward to be more realistic.

Women's Initiative Committee (WIC) Report

Nyla Arslanian and Patti Rich, WIC co-chairs, reported that they were continuing to communicate, orally and/or in writing, with the spouses of all classmates and with all widows of deceased classmates.

In connection therewith, Nyla has been working with Harris to establish a more reliable and more consistent communications link to all '61 spouses and widows.

In addition, Nyla and Oscar have begun to organize and gather material for the 60th Reunion booklet, with assistance from several other classmates to provide the content.

D'61 Special Classmate Awards Committee Report

Dave Prewitt, Awards Committee chair, reported that he and the committee, consisting of Denny Denniston, Harris McKee and Vic Rich, were expecting to present one or more awards during our 60th Reunion in June 2021 and also at the anticipated mini-reunion in the Fall of 2021.

Class and Classmate Alumni Awards Archive Report

Vic Rich, co-chair of this committee with Denny Denniston, reported that this multi-year project was near completion. The finalized archival information would then become part of our Class' written history and provided to Oscar and Nyla Arslanian for their inclusion in for the 60th Reunion booklet. The final section to be completed is a list of those classmates who have served on the Alumni Council and/or the Dartmouth Alumni Association Executive Board. An email and/or letter will be sent out by Harris to all classmates and widows to solicit this information.

New Business - None expressed.

The next class officers/executive committee telecon will be on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at noon EST.

Don adjourned the meeting at 12:55PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Vic Rich, '61 Class Secretary

