

## **Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee**

Minutes from Meeting of January 22, 2011

Offices of Wells Fargo Advisors, Wellesley, MA

In attendance: Ron Weiss, Bill Rich, Ed Heald, Dave Gang, and Mark Waterhouse; David Peck, Jim Lawrie, Dave Walden and Joe Nathan Wright by phone.

1. President Ron Weiss called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2010, prepared by Secretary Pro Tem Ron Weiss, were approved as submitted.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Lawrie, by conference call, reviewed handout material forwarded by him to Ron Weiss and shared with the committee in advance. Overall income since 7/1/2010 totals \$26,142.49, which includes \$5,515 donated to the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Fund. Class dues for the period totaled \$20,620.
4. Current investments stand at \$70,439.34, per the handout. \$19,237.89 in Vanguard Short Term Bond Index Fund, and \$51,201.45 in Vanguard Stock Market Index Fund. There was some discussion on the mix of investments, and it was suggested the move funds out of the Bond Fund since interest rates are likely to go up, and thus bonds decline in value.
5. The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Fund was \$478,000 as of October 2010, not reflecting recent gifts nor fund appreciation. Bill Rich (see below) estimates it may now be over \$500,000.
6. **Communications/Web Use:** Jim then moved discussion in his role as **Webmaster**. He had shared in advance a chart showing monthly activity on the class site. The site is averaging 250 to 300 hits per month, with a surprising 800 hits during the month of December. A separate chart indicating how many pages were viewed on the site showed high page use in September. There is no obvious explanation for spikes in activity, but the Committee was pleased with the activity and thanked Jim for his continuing management of the site.
7. **Head Agent Report:** Joe Nathan Wright reported via conference call. The FY 11 goals are \$450,000, and 59% of our participating classmates. To date, we have \$176,000 in cash, with 161 donors and 26% participation. Counting pledges, we are at \$212,000 with 175 donors, or 28% participation. We are running 3% ahead of the College in participation as of January 21.

There will be a continuing focus on Leadership gifts, defined as between \$2,500 and \$50,000. We hope to have 26 such gifts, and as of now have 5. Overall, there are about 40 class solicitors, and more are needed.

Dave Walden is doing a strong job as Participation Co-Chair with Pete Wonson. Hap Ridgeway and Dick Olson are also helping out in a good way.

Committee comments followed:

- a) Dave Walden worries about staff reductions in the Development Office, and how that could lessen support for the Class efforts on the Annual Fund. Some suggested that this issue be brought to our Alumni Council rep Gerry Bell to bring up at a future Alumni Council meeting. A second suggestion was that this question be brought up confidentially with Peter Fahey.
  - b) Bill Rich disagreed, feeling the Development Office will do fine, and noted that with the move to Volt, fund raising has become more efficient and less paper-bound.
  - c) David Peck commended the efforts of the Green Corps; they do a fine job representing the College
8. **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Gift:** Bill Rich reported that he was pleased to see progress in that the accumulated fund had grown from \$436,000 in April 2010 to the estimated fund in excess of \$500,000 in January 2011.

He reports he has a Solicitor's Group of 4 who plan to make a series of calls in December, and hopes to recruit more callers. He noted that Dan Nelson is calling donors to thank them.

Discussion followed:

- a. Jim will provide a spreadsheet showing all gifts to the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion fund over time, to assist the phone call soliciting.
  - b. Bill will check with Molly Bode on the status of the commissioned video, with attention to the status of the longer video, which may need further editing and refinement. It was noted that the short video was very well received at its Houston debut this past fall
9. **Secretary's Report:** David Peck thanked Ron for acting as secretary at the October meeting. He noted a growth in use of Facebook and LinkedIn by classmates, and both have provided news for the Alumni Magazine column. He also noted the recent death of classmate James Blackwell. An obituary is in preparation.
10. **Class Newsletter:** Dave Gang noted that the Newsletter has been reformatted, using Indesign software. It will use two colors, green and black. He is starting to add archival pictures, and would love to get current pictures from classmates as well, but they must be high resolution format. He hopes to use some of the pictures from the website (like the recent golf trip). Next newsletter, scheduled to go out by end of January, will take 5 to 7 business days to arrive to classmates.
11. **Mini-Reunions:** No report, as Gerry Bell and John Everett unavailable for conference call. Ed Heald noted that the Golf Mini-Reunion in Oregon was such a success that a follow-up trip is already being planned for November 2011.
12. **Planned Giving:** Ed Heald noted that the College has a "canned" presentation on the topic, which Ed feels isn't particularly good. He believes a more personal touch will be more effective. He asked Dave Gang to remind him (Ed) to prepare a contribution on planned giving for a future newsletter.

13. **Class 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party:** Ed reported that the contract for the Williamsburg venue is about to be signed: September 15th through 18<sup>th</sup>. 25 rooms are being held at the Williamsburg Lodge, at rates from \$169 to \$199 per night. The only formal events will be a Thursday evening gathering at the Lodge, a Friday evening dinner at a colonial tavern, and a Saturday evening banquet for our “formal” birthday party. The only cost to the Class will be the evening dinners; everything else will be borne by the individual classmate, including lodging. There will be optional tours of Williamsburg, golf, and perhaps other events. Current assumption is an attendance of about 50 persons.

**14. President’s Report and Old Business: None**

15. **Next Executive Committee meeting** will be held in Hanover, on May 14, 2011, from 10 to noon, location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Peck  
Secretary