

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee

Minutes from Meeting of May 31, 2014

Zimmerman Lounge, Blunt Alumni Hall, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

In attendance: Peter Fahey, Dave Walden, John Everett, Bill Rich, Ed Heald, John Engelman, Joe Nathan Wright, Gerry Bell, Janet Rosa (guest), and Trip Davis '90 (guest), in person; Jim Lawrie, Peter Wonson, Dave Gang and David Peck by conference call.

1. Peter Fahey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, in person and by conference call.
2. **Followup from last meeting:**
 - **Class Project:** Entrepreneurial Program Support: The Committee welcomed back Trip Davis '90, who had introduced the program at the February meeting. The program is intended to support all members of the Dartmouth family, undergraduates, faculty and alumni, with seed money and other support for new initiatives. The program has raised over \$4 million already. A new space has been provided by the College for the program; it will open informally in June and fully open in September. One aspect of the entrepreneurial program is the use of “crowdfunding” using a program called “Kickstarter”
 - How can the Class of 1968 support as a Class Project? Trip suggested a contribution in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000 to support one or more student interns who would focus on the crowdfunding/Kickstarter initiative.
 - Peter asked that our contribution be “branded”...identifying that the Class of 1968 has provided the intern support, and that the program be properly tagged on Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and the College website.
 - Discussion followed: Would Class support for this effort take away from other Class initiatives? No: this would come from dues (which no longer pay for Alumni magazine), and not compete with the 50th Reunion gift effort.
 - After discussion, the **Executive Committee supported a first year donation of \$5,000**, with a pledge to review progress through this year, and consider future support. Trip was asked to provide follow-up details at the next Exec Comm meeting.
3. **Class Officer's Reports:**
 - **Newsletter Chairman:** Dave Gang (by phone) reported that Imodules, new software used to communicate with all classmates, has been working very well. Next newsletter is planned for August 2014, and requested contributions soon to allow formatting and setup. He noted that the next newsletter should be including updates on the recent Class Ski trip and Virgin Islands cruise.

- He reported that he has been invited to serve as Vice President of the Newsletter Association, which he is considering along with Roberta, his helpmate in all things. He is leaning to accept.
- Peter Fahey noted he was pleased to see the “Most Wanted” listing in the past newsletter, and hopes that it can continue and expand in future newsletters.
- It was suggested, as a future newsletter topic, to create a “Class Courage” award, thinking about the recent experiences of Cliff Groen. Gerry Bell suggested it not be a standing award or topic, rather periodic, when appropriate, and Pete Wonson further cautioned that the subject of any article approve, rather than writing about them without permission. Gerry Bell to draft language for the newsletter.
- **Communication with Widows:** Ed Heald is still working on redrafts of these letters, aiming for a Fall 2014 mailing.
- **Class Survey:** Peter reports the current draft is not user friendly, and needs more work. He will send out a trial version to one classmate, and once it passes muster, will send out to everyone.
- **Set The Record Straight program:** Discussed at past Executive Committee meetings, the concept is to allow classmates to make an appropriate contribution to the College Alumni Fund which will compensate for any past years missed, and thus qualify as having 100% participation in the Alumni Fund since graduation. Once done, the classmate would qualify for the Hal Ripley Society...38 classmates already qualify.
- Peter Wonson outlined the College rules:
 - Any donor must give his average donation for four non-reunion years times the number of years missed.
 - 111 current classmates would qualify, and could raise as much as \$900,000.
 - It has to be given in one Alumni Fund campaign year.
 - Any exceptions would need to be approved by the Director of Development.
- Discussion followed:
 - Joe Nathan Wright noted that the rules could create a hardship for 3 or 4 classmates, and worried that some current Hal Ripley Society members might resent classmates joining through this retroactive program.
- After the discussion, the **Executive Committee approved implementation of this program for our Class, with a goal to plan in the Fall and roll out in December 2014.**
- **Class Connections Program:** John Engelman reported that he has already lined up a group of classmates to cover four different periods in

late August and early September during the Freshman Trips where our classmates would meet the Class of 2018 as they passed through the College Grant. The Class treasury would purchase meals, coolers and ice, charcoal etc to provide the incoming freshmen meals (estimated cost \$4,000 to \$5,000). A few more classmates would be most welcome.

- A second part of our Class Connections program will be Wednesday, September 10 (time TBD but assumed evening) where classmates would be assigned to meet the Class of '18 as they come out of Parkhurst after matriculation. We would hand out Connections pins to each freshman (estimated cost to class treasury: \$1,500) and be invited to share a lobster dinner with them. More classmates are needed, and spouses are welcome!
- **New York City Theater Mini-Reunion (68 Turns 68):** Ed Heald reported that 14 classmates and 7 guests have already signed up for the Theater weekend over September 18 through 21. In addition 12 classmates are in the maybe category. The show will be *Kinky Boots*. He noted that Jim Lawrie had suggested this event, which looks to be a significant success.
- **Class Activity Report:** Peter Fahey noted that this is an annual requirement from all classes, and will be going online shortly. The metrics have changed significantly since last year, where many classes objected to some of the questions. It will be due by July 31.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Lawrie (by phone) presented an overview of Class finances: For the current fiscal year (July through May 27) income of \$22,022.95 and expenses of \$34,244.21, which includes the \$24,000 voted at last meeting to transfer to our bond and stock funds. Our current checking account: \$12,166. On investments, we have \$120,004.74 in stock index funds, \$36,540.17 in bond index funds, for a total of \$156,508.91.
- **Webmaster Report:** Jim reported our average daily visits continue to grow slightly, although some visits from Russia and Ukraine. He has added information from John Engelman about the Class Connections program to the website.
- **Class Agent:** Joe Nathan Wright (Head Agent) and Peter Wonson (Participation Chair) reported that "we have a challenge ahead of us".
 - Some of the past solicitors have resigned, and there have been VOLT software technical issues. In addition, the year after a reunion year is traditionally a harder year for fund raising.
 - The 2014 class goal is \$400,000, with a classmate participation goal of 50% or 349 classmates. As of May 30, we have \$251,000 cash in hand from 245 classmates, with another \$7,000 pledged

from 9 or 10 classmates. We are running a bit behind 2012, our last non-reunion year.

- Janet Rosa noted that she will be focusing on large donors from the class, and hopes to have an update by first week of June.
- Peter Wonson added that as of now, there are 120 classmates who have given in the past, and hopes that most will be able to donate. He notes that if 96 more classmates do contribute, we will get to our participation goal.

- **50th Reunion Gift:** Bill Rich reported that due to the technical problems with the College's information system conversion, it has been a bit difficult to obtain results more recent than last year end. At that time the Fund was at \$898,000 and might exceed \$1 million by now. He notes Janet Rosa has been very helpful, while some others have not been. As a class, we are already in the top half of classes from the 60's in terms of our 50th Reunion fund raising, but still are unlikely to get to our original target total of \$6 to \$7 million as a gift.

- **Secretary:** David Peck noted class column news gathering comes from multiple sources, including direct emails, calls and occasional Facebook postings. Two recent classmate deaths were shared: Bill Kendall and George Moore, with obituaries to be prepared in near future for sharing. He also requested that Newsletter Editor Dave Gang share news, when different deadlines create opportunities to fill out the column.

- **Mini-Reunions:** Gerry Bell noted the successful, recently completed Virgin Island cruise, which had four boats involved. Future initiatives include wine country (2016, for our collective 70th birthdays, similar to the Williamsburg event), possible Vegas trip, rafting the Grand Canyon, Fall mini-reunion: weekend of October 4, 2014, University of Pennsylvania.

4. **Next Executive Committee Meeting:** Saturday, October 4, 2014, in Hanover, time and location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Peck
Secretary