

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee

Minutes from Meeting of May 30, 2015

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

In attendance: Peter Fahey, Bill Rich, Gerry Bell, John Engelman, Joe Lowry, David Walden, John Everett, Ed Heald, Greg Marshall and David Peck in person; Peter Wonson, Jim Lawrie, Joe Nathan Wright (by phone); Dan Nelson, guest.

1. President Peter Fahey opened the meeting, and welcomed those attending in person and by conference call.
2. Peter welcomed Dan Nelson, Director of Outdoor Programs. In discussing the funding for the proposed 50th Reunion Gift, of funding the Freshman Trips, Dan reported that the program's net cost after charging each participant \$220 is approximately \$45,000 per year. Some degree of scholarships are available to some students. There is 94% participation among incoming freshmen. A gift to establish a \$2 million endowment could reduce the cost per student to \$150 each. Dan does not recommend reducing the student's cost to zero...it is important that the participants have some "skin in the game" so they have some stake in the program. To ensure participation, a refundable deposit could be required.

If the 50th Reunion Gift turns out to exceed the requirements of partially funding the Freshman Trips, his other priorities would be trail maintenance (now costing approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year), training for Trip Leaders, and allowing the fund to make sure cost is no obstacle to any student who wants to participate in any undergraduate outdoors program.

Discussion followed:

- a. Bill Rich wondered whether a Board could be created to allocate funds, should our gift exceed the targeted amount.
- b. It was suggested to consider funding a statue at the Ravine Lodge by Dimitri Gerikaris'69, a sculptor.

The group consensus was to get our minimum gift to \$2 million, to be able to reduce the Trips cost to \$150, after which the Executive Committee could suggest other funding options, such as trail maintenance.

3. Peter noted that he had shared in advance of the meeting an update on the Crowd Funding project, which drew warm support from the Executive Committee. **It was unanimously approved to direct \$5,000 this year to the program.**
4. Peter reported that the Widow Letter program had sent out 26 letters, which generated 3 poignant responses. One particular touching letter was from the

- widow of John Mrozak. It was agreed that the President and Secretary would review death notices provided by the College, and decide on the appropriate timing to contact the classmate's widow. It was suggested that there be a "Woman's Chair" to chair the program (rather than a "Widow's Chair"); no immediate candidates were suggested, but the Executive Committee is asked to keep an eye out for interested candidates.
5. Pete Wonson reported, by phone, on the success of the Set the Record Straight program. 111 classmates are/were eligible, having given to the College for more than 40 years. Of these 25 classmates have participated so far, raising \$28,000, with an additional 15 classmate in process. His goal is to get at least 70 classmates to participate. Peter Fahey expressed gratitude for the hard work by Pete Wonson, and others, to bring such success to the program.
 6. David Walden reported on the Vox 8 program, in which the Alumni Office partners the classes ending in "8s" (i.e. class of 1948, 1958, 1968 etc) to generate and share ideas on how to improve class activities. One idea that has emerged: Vox 8 summer reunions, perhaps in combination the '18s who would be on campus during the summer of 2016. The class of 2008 was interested, but earlier classes less so, due to the costs of participating. Already suggested for us: participating in "Strips", Sophomore Trips, during that same summer of 2016.
 7. Peter Fahey reviewed with the Executive Committee the renovation/reconstruction of Memorial Field/Stadium, now in progress. It has been suggested that all memorials now scattered around the campus be relocated to the Memorial Field; other classes have already contributed \$1,000 each to support these moves. **After discussion, it was agreed that the Class of 1968 would offer \$2,000, on the condition that a plaque denoting our contribution is placed adjacent to the memorial itself. (Post-note: this condition will be met.)** Bill Rich suggested that the memorial include names of all who served, not just those who died.
 8. Gerry Bell reported on Mini-Reunions. The third annual Virgin Islands cruise was recently completed, to much satisfaction by the participants (multiple classes represented); the fourth annual cruise is already planned for May 5 through 14, 2016. Bill Rich has put together an April 2016 Danube River Cruise and visit to Budapest, and reservations are already in process. The Class 70th Birthday is planned for September 9 through 13 in California. 40 rooms at the Silverado have been put on hold.

9. Treasurer Jim Lawrie reported, by phone. There is over \$15,000 in the checking account, and approximately \$172,500 in investments. \$7,700 has come in toward our 50th Reunion Gift. Overall annual income has been around \$22,000 from dues, about average; expenses have included the Class Connections program (\$7,900), Projects (\$5,000), newsletter, dues notices etc.
10. Head Class Agent Joe Nathan Wright reported, by phone. This year's goal is \$400,000, part of a two year goal of \$800,000. Last year we raised \$368,000. We already have \$378,284 in hand this year. Participation so far is 37% or 255 donors; our goal is 50% and 347 donors. Joe Nathan asked everyone to make their calls, so that we can meet or exceed our goals. Peter Fahey thanked Joe Nathan and his team for their hard work.
11. Dave Gang, Newsletter Editor, was not available by phone, but did share his plans for an August Newsletter. One suggestion: obtain from the Valley News the story of the planned closing of the Polka Dot, for inclusion in a future Newsletter. The cost would be \$100. **The Executive Committee approved that expenditure.**

Dave noted that he is investigating other printers for the newsletter, to provide better resolution for the pictures. He also requested pictures of any recent Class Connections activities.

12. John Engelman reported on the Class Connections activities, including a barbeque held May 2. It was hard to tell how many '18s attended, but approximately 12 classmates participated. Terry Lichty was one, who was in town to celebrate the 50 anniversary of meeting his wife! No '18 Connections programs are planned for this summer, but it was suggested that the '18s be invited to our Fall Mini-reunion. John noted that the Class of 1966 has monthly breakfasts at Anything But Anchovies with their connections Class ('16s) but that is lightly attended since it is so early. The Sophomore Trips (Strips) are planned for summer of 2016, as a Connections program. Another suggestion for Connections programs: receptions in Boston, New York City and Washington, and elsewhere, during their junior year (2016-2017).
13. Peter Fahey opened discussion on the 50th Reunion planning, with attention to generating ideas for special events and activities we can incorporate into our event. Ideas include:
 - a. A "Prodigal Son" program, to contact classmates who have never, or rarely, attended an event.

- b. In lieu of a 50th Reunion yearbook (our 40th was so good, why try to repeat), solicit every classmate to submit a 500 word essay, perhaps on the topic of what to do to make the next 50 years better. We would publish in March of our reunion year (2018).
- c. Classmate displays: books, art, architectural photos and plans, etc.
- d. Accomplishments of wives and partners (e.g. Ina Garten)
- e. A significant guest speaker (Ken Burns mentioned, but like many others could be expensive)
- f. A panel discussion of the effect of the Viet Nam War on the collective Class.
- g. Make a DVD of the 50th Reunion.

Bill Rich suggested getting the programs from other 50th Reunion programs, to learn from their ideas. Dave Walden will follow up with Jen Casey.

Peter asked that all Executive Committee members forward ideas for the 50th Reunion to him, for further discussion at our October meeting.

- 14. It was agreed the Fall Mini-Reunion will be the weekend of October 10, with a home football game against Yale. An Executive Committee meeting would be held that Saturday morning; location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

David Peck
Secretary