

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee
Minutes from Meeting of February 13, 2016
Zimmerman Lounge, Blunt Alumni Hall, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

In attendance: Peter Fahey, Bill Rich, John Engelman, David Walden, John Everett, Gerry Bell and guests Aaron Cheese and Toryima Asom Copresidents Class of 2018 and Janet Rosa in person; Joe Nathan Wright, Jim Lawrie, Peter Wonson, David Gang, Mark Waterhouse, and David Peck (by phone).

1. President Peter Fahey opened the meeting, and welcomed those attending in person and by conference call.
2. Follow up Items from last meetings:
 - a. Peter Fahey reported on progress in the “We Want You Back” program. 93 classmates who have been uninvolved in class activities (no DCF, no dues, no reunions) have been contacted with the \$10 incentive bill enclosed. If there is a response with interest in attending the reunion, and agreement to make a donation to the Dartmouth College Fund, there would be a \$90 matching donation provided by an anonymous classmate. So far, there have been 18 responses, of whom 6 said they are now planning to attend the reunion, and will receive the matching donation.
 - b. Since it has been agreed in the past not to produce a 50th Reunion Book, in part since our 40th Reunion Book was so good, there was discussion on what to substitute. An idea being pursued is to create a “Class of 1968 Self Expression and Life Recommendation Electronic Instrument” (punchier label obviously required) which would be an online tool to which classmates respond in advance of reunion, and which would be shared among all classmates. There could be 12 to 15 sections of the questionnaire, and classmates would receive a discount on reunion fees (perhaps 2%) per section filled out, with a maximum of 20% discount. (Not every section need be filled out.) Peter is in touch with an outside service which is producing a 50th reunion book for the Class of 1966 and which might help with the electronic production.

Sections might include: a customized/modified “Proust questionnaire” (20 or so questions that elucidate the participant’s attitudes toward life (as featured in Vanity Fair Magazine)); a 300-word essay with recommendations/thoughts on improving the next 50 years; 5 most important life experiences; 5 favorites in the following categories: literary fiction; popular fiction; poetry; popular music; art music; movies; television series; theatrical productions; ...

3. Class Officer Reports:

a. Mini Reunions: Gerry Bell reporting:

- The Okemo Eastern Ski trip in late January was a success. 14 classmates attended, and no one was hurt (despite a very icy second day). Planning is already underway for next year (version 4.0)
- Grand Canyon hike planning is still tentative, since booking the Canyon Ranch at the bottom is difficult, due to limited availability and long lead times.
- An “electronic reunion” is proposed, for the 68th day of the year: March 8 or 9 (realistically starting 2017). All classmates are encouraged to post a picture of where they are and what they are doing on that day.
- 70th Birthday planning, for September 2016 in California is shaping up nicely. 40 classmates are already signed up. Some suggested activities are emerging: wine tours, jelly bean factory tour.
- Fall 2016 Mini-reunion is suggested for homecoming weekend (10/28-30). It is not clear yet when the football game might be...could be Friday or Saturday night, since the field now has lights.

b. Class Agent: Joe Nathan Wright reporting:

- Joe Nathan noted the great help of Participation Co-Chairs Bob Ross and Peter Wonson.
- The Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) status so far: goal of \$400,000 and 50% participation (346 classmates). Cash and pledges so far: \$220,520 from 179 classmates. Cash in hand: \$214,423 from 166 classmates. Still needed: \$185,577 and 180 more classmates.
- Key need is more solicitors! In past years, we’ve had 42 classmate solicitors calling classmates to support the fund. Right now, we are down to 30.
- Joe requests that the Executive Committee, those not already solicitors, each volunteer to make approximately 5 calls, which will help us make our goal.

- Peter Wonson noted that the “Set The Record Straight” succeeded, with 87 classmates now being exemplars.
- Peter is following up with classmates who responded to the “We Want You Back” campaign...he mentioned Pete Boorum who had initially responded with a “grumpy” letter, but then found common ground once the follow up phone call occurred.

c. Treasurer’s and Webmaster Report, Jim Lawrie reporting:

- Checking account, as of February 10, 2016 holds \$31,321.98. Investment accounts include \$118,101.80 in stock index funds, \$37,450.57 in bond funds, for a total of \$155,552.37.
- Income includes dues of \$22,135, 50th Reunion donations of \$8,560 and modest interest, for a total of \$30,696.15. Expenses of \$8,382.95 include costs of Connections program, class projects, newsletter, and dues collection costs.
- Since our fund balance is generally healthy, Jim suggests that \$15,000 be transferred to our investment accounts, with \$10,000 to stock index, and \$5,000 to the bond index. This proposal was unanimously supported by the Executive Committee.
- On the Class website, Jim reported basically level activity, with September 2015 being the one busier month. He has scanned class officers’ pictures from the 1968 yearbook, and requests current casual photos from the officers to be posted in the class information section of the website.

d. 50th Reunion Donation Fundraising, Bill Rich reporting:

- To date, \$806,957 have been booked, and with investment growth, total now stands at \$1,158,921. Income seems to average \$25,000 to \$30,000 per 3 to 4 months.
- His and our class goal, needs to be to broaden the appeal and attract new givers. The actual number of class donors, many who repeat, is a small subset of the full class.

e. Newsletter, Dave Gang reporting:

- Dave reported that his wife and co-editor Roberta will be having surgery in March, and thus he is trying to wrap up the next newsletter prior to her upcoming unavailability as she recovers.

He requests everyone get their material in within 7 to 10 days (by February 21 if possible).

- Current newsletter contents include (or will): President's message, notes on Jeff Garten and Tom Laughlin's books; memories of John Rassias, recent passing of Bob Haslach and Jock Soper. Dave also is considering a column requesting classmate response: "Worst Thing I ever Did". Although he jokingly worries that we need to be careful that statutes of limitation have expired!
- Dave noted that he learned at recent Class Officer's weekend that only 60% of our classmates use email, and of those, not everyone opens the emails (to avoid spam). So the hard copy of the newsletter remains important.

f. Class Secretary, David Peck reporting:

- In addition to continuing efforts to gather news for the class column, David has created a Survey Monkey questionnaire for the class. The goal, over the coming months, is to create a series of questionnaires leading up to our reunion. The survey link will be provided in the class notes column in the alumni magazine, the website and class newsletter. Results will be shared in future columns, and also help inform reunion planning.
- David also noted the passing of James (Jock) Soper, for whom an obituary is in preparation; this will be shared with the Webmaster and Newsletter Editor, as well as the Alumni Magazine.

g. Class Connections, John Engelman reporting:

- John shared Class of 2018 activities that could be opportunities for Class of 1968 to participate with them, including a Sophomore summer trip (hiking, Mooselauke lodge), for which a date has not yet been set, and a summer Family weekend in August.
- Another suggestion is participation by our classmates in career/job interview workshops with the '18s. The '18 co-presidents indicated that they will consider this idea and get back to our class.

h. The Vox 8 Program, Dave Walden reporting:

- Dave noted the purpose of this program is to share best practices and learn from each other. The '88s had 79.1% Dartmouth College

Fund participation rate for the year in which they held their 25th reunion. This is an example of practices that we can learn from. It was noted that the widow's contact program is another idea we learned from other classes.

4. President's Discussion:

- a. New Alumni Councilor: Peter noted that there is a vacant position for Class Alumni Councilor, after the expiration of Dick Olson's term. The appointment must be made before May 1 (Alumni Relations wants it by March 1). It would be good to have a candidate who would be new to the Executive Committee. Suggestions include Hugh Boss, Andy Hotaling, Stan Hooker, Larry Himes, David Medalie, and Roger Witten. Peter will contact them and make a recommendation to the Executive Committee soon (before the next meeting).
- b. 50th Reunion Planning: Peter announced that Gerry Bell has agreed to chair the 50th Reunion, Peter Wonson would serve as vice-chair for participation/attendance, and Dave Walden would serve as vice-chair and local contact to work on event locations and local details. The entire Executive Committee will serve as the Reunion planning committee, as well as others. The expectation is significant delegation of responsibility; many hands make light work.

Peter shared a long list of ideas for programs, activities to consider, and continue to ask all of us in the Class to contribute additional ideas.

Ideas include:

- Early arrival (Thursday) and perhaps staying at the new Mooselauke lodge.
- Tuesday after reunion departure: i.e., make a longer reunion time.
- Barbeque with the '18s.
- Panel discussions, with one particular idea how the Vietnam War affected our lives and career
- Display of classmate creative works
- Time capsule to be opened in 2068
- Production of semi-professional video of the weekend
- Personal reunion pictures and videos, to be posted on our website after
- Water color portrait of reunion scene

- Sharing of hobby activities

- Memorial Service
- Interview the '18s about their Dartmouth experience.
- Bruce Senn idea: redo our Freshman trip hikes/experiences to see how things have changed in 50 years.
- Jeff and Ina Garten presentations
- Affinity group activities (fraternities, music etc.)
- And we need more ideas!!

5. Next Meeting: 10 am Saturday May 21, tentatively in the Zimmerman Lounge.

Respectfully submitted,

David Peck
Secretary