

PROPOSED MINUTES/MEETING OF THE DARTMOUTH CLASS OF 1968 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/FEBRUARY 29,2020

(Secretary's note: Due primarily to wifi and internet connectivity difficulties at the meeting venue, along with some power shortages, the ability to record proceedings was limited, and much of the allotted time was taken up attempting to restore lost contact. These minutes were transcribed from partial telephone recordings, reports submitted by participants, and physical notetaking. They are incomplete, although most issues are summarized. Some names of attendees may be missing, and the content does not strictly follow the prearranged agenda sequence.)

A meeting of the Dartmouth class of 1968 executive committee was held at Gadsby's Tavern in Alexandria, VA on February 29, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10 AM by President David Peck. Also attending in person at the start were Secretary Jack Hopke, Norm Silverman, Dick Jones, John Pfeiffer, and Howard Anderson. Gary Horlick and Jonathan Axelrod arrived later.

Attending initially by Zoom connection and later by telephone were Treasurer and Webmaster Jim Lawrie, David Walden, Newsletter Editor Mark Waterhouse, Vice-President Roger Witten, Mini-Reunion Chair Bill Rich, Gift Planning Chair Ed Heald, Joe Nathan Wright, Peter Wonson, Peter Hofman, Alumni Council Representative Tom Stonecipher, and Head Agent Parker Beverage.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

President Peck distributed a copy of a class constitution and credited work thereon by Roger Witten and Bill Rich. Action is to be taken on the document at the next meeting.

Community Service Project presentation: Peter Wonson and Peter Hofman collaborated on a summary that highlighted a 25% increase in site attendance recently and an impressive growth in activities from 62 in October to 164 now. Those activities include the ongoing, promised, considering, and watching categories. Involvement includes individual, small group, and large organization work and a wide range of topics, among them education, the environment, health care, and social welfare. The class website contains extensive information about the goals of the project, the reasons for involvement, and the process of joining.

Jim Lawrie presented the Treasurer's report. As of the end of January, the class had a balance of \$248,640.59 in total assets. A motion to approve the report was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. A discussion ensued regarding possible uses of those assets that would directly benefit the College. A few specific matters included the renewal of the class's \$1000 donation to the Dartmouth Athletic Program, which was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously. A suggestion was then forwarded that the class make this year's donation in the name of the late Seaver Peters. John Pfeiffer noted that we could recall Peters by reading his obituary at www.dartmouthsports.com. In his role as Webmaster, Lawrie noted a 25% increase in site usage in the last ninety days.

President Peck submitted that at this time in our lives, it would be in our interest to specify donees of class moneys and establish permanent guidelines for the dispersal of class funds. Appointing a class executor might be prudent to help ensure that those guidelines and directives survive us. Peck further addressed possible future class projects to be vetted: The commissioning of a composition of brass music to be played at graduation; and offering support

for a 75th birthday gathering, as we did for the mini reunion in New York last November, to be held in the fall of 2021 at The Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Response to this latter possibility, including financial support, was broadly popular with attendees.

Head Agent Parker Beverage reported that as of the meeting date, 168 classmates had contributed more than \$204,000 to the Dartmouth College Fund, which represents an increase of five donors and nearly \$60,000 over this time last year. Class goals remain at \$350,000 with 50% participation for this fundraising cycle. Beverage presented a proposal to help hit the 50% goal that would involve a matching gift of \$100 from our class treasury for this cycle's non-participants who donate between May 1 and May 31. The donor could specify any qualified, non-DCF organization or program as recipient. Beverage's request for approval of an expenditure of up to \$3000 from our class treasury was discussed, moved, and unanimously approved. (Update: Since the date of the meeting, the COVID-19 pandemic has forced the DCF leadership team to forego the approved initiative. Classmates who now make new or additional DCF contributions until June 30 will have their gifts matched up to \$100 with a collective class contribution to the Dartmouth Student Emergency Fund.)

Regarding the Freshman Trip Endowment, our contribution reduced the cost to each student from \$269 to \$210, a significant drop that spun off about \$70,000 to the College. Our previous contact at the College regarding Trip matters departed after last fall's lost student trouble, and President Peck is now seeking to learn of a replacement.

In an additional financial matter, there was a discussion of classmates donating their annual IRA Required Minimum Distribution to the College and thereby possibly receiving a significant Qualified Charitable Deduction on their taxes. Ed Heald offered some insight on this issue.

Professor Jed Dobson gave a presentation on writing programs at the College. Pilot programs are exploring two course options for fall and winter terms: humanities writing in the fall; physical sciences writing in the winter. 30 students could be accommodated. Dobson said students have expressed difficulty moving from one style of writing to another, and the goal of the program is to expand and diversify their abilities. He mentioned that a writing course is currently mandatory for all first-year students, and that incoming students are surveyed in the summer regarding their writing expertise. Students with writing difficulty are further steered toward Writing 2 & 3 courses. There is a degree requirement involving writing. Classmates Anderson, Pfeiffer, and Rich presented questions regarding the teaching of writing in general and the Writing and Rhetoric course. President Peck expressed the class's continuing interest in pursuing the issue of writing instruction at Dartmouth.

A few personal matters were addressed. Well-wishes were expressed to classmates Cedric Kam, whose wife has been facing serious health issues, and Newsletter Editor Mark Waterhouse, who is to undergo back surgery. (Waterhouse allowed that his medicinal intake has consisted largely of non-prescription, but effective, brewed nostrums.). The question of whether the class has done anything to mark the death of Thaddeus Seymour was raised and answered with a strong affirmative. Dean Thad was featured in the Newsletter and an expression of sympathy was sent to his widow.

President Peck noted that the next committee meeting is scheduled for May 23 in Hanover and then adjourned the present session.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Hopke
Secretary