

December 18, 2007

To the members of the Classes of 1969 and 1970-

As your representative, I am pleased to report to you about the recently-concluded meeting of the Alumni Council in Hanover. This was the 195th gathering of the 102-member Council and featured a busy two days of committee meetings and plenary sessions. Among the more enjoyable sessions were encounters with students, whose enthusiasm and accomplishments should be the pride of every alumnus.

As many of you know, the Council was established in 1913, and its 101 elected members serve two critical functions. First, the Council is the primary conduit of communications between alumni and the administration. Second, the Council nominates candidates for so-called "alumni" positions on the Board of Trustees.

By any measure, the College has never been stronger. Student satisfaction levels are among the highest anywhere in the country. The endowment's performance and the pace of alumni giving are both extremely strong. New construction (including eight new dormitories) has transformed the campus. Dartmouth remains one of the most selective institutions in the country and continues to attract the best and brightest applicants from across the country and around the world. It appears that the numbers of students seeking admission to the Class of 2012 will again set a record.

The Council listened attentively to presentations regarding student life, admissions, the Capital Campaign, and other aspects of the College's operations. President Wright was the featured speaker at Saturday evening's banquet. Two distinguished alumni, including former Trustee Peter Fahey '68, received Dartmouth Alumni Awards at this event.

A final word is in order on the subject of the Trustees' recent decision to increase the size of the Board and the lawsuit challenging this decision that was filed by six of the eleven members of the Association of Alumni Executive Committee. Following the lead of the President of the Association of Alumni, the Council has condemned the lawsuit and has filed an amicus brief supporting the College's effort to have it dismissed. Two of the sponsors of the lawsuit appeared at the Council's last plenary session and faced tough questioning about, among other things, how the lawsuit is being financed.

I am also happy to report that the Council voted to condemn in the strongest terms the recent comments of trustee Todd Zywicki.

I have purposely kept this report short, since I know that all of you are bombarded with information about Dartmouth (and other matters) these days. The formal minutes of the meeting can be found at _____. I would be happy to respond to any questions or comments about this.

Best Holiday wishes to all.

Tom Peisch '70