

Report on the May 2012 Alumni Council Meeting

By Gerry Bell

The May 2012 Alumni Council meeting did not feature many new developments, instead emphasizing College-alumni communications -- which, after all, is the primary objective of having the council in the first place. Herewith a summary of the highlights:

- President Kim made his farewell address to the Council, emotional and heartfelt on both sides of the podium. You've probably already had the opportunity to read a good deal about his thoughts in Dartmouth Life and the Alumni Magazine, so I won't repeat them here. We wish him well -- I guess this is the kind of situation for which the words "bittersweet" and "mixed emotions" are meant ...
- Dean of the Faculty Mike Mastanduno – one of my favorites; he's a great mix of ideals and practicality -- reported on plans for faculty recruiting and expansion. In his words, Dartmouth aims to attract the best scholar teachers, who are recognized leaders in their fields, and who are dedicated teachers wishing to engage with their students. This places Dartmouth at the intersection of the great research universities and the great liberal arts colleges, and presents a real recruiting challenge. However, it is a small college (and so on), and Dartmouth offers many attractions and advantages. For my money, Mike Mastanduno is one of them; I have tremendous confidence in him.
- Tours of the new Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center and the new Class of 1953 Commons (Thayer Hall to you) were conducted. Both facilities are spectacular. Take a good look if you can the next time you're in Hanover.
- Trustees Steve Mandel, Bill Helman, and Morton Kondracke reported on recent Board activities, including outreach to alumni and students, strategic

planning, the presidential search process, and recent media coverage concerning hazing at Dartmouth.

- Martha Beattie, VP of Alumni Relations, reported on the continuing effort to foster “more meaningful and lifelong engagement” between the College and alumni. Step 1, of course, is “all reunions on weekends.” This was the first reunion cycle it’s been done, and by all accounts it went very well. Still, I’m glad they’ve had one round to work out the kinks before our turn next year!

I have attached the full Alumni Council report -- all 4,090 words -- to this summary. I expect that Jim Lawrie will be able to post it to the class website, and that John Engelman will be able to attach it to this summary in the listserv email. (Dave Gang may put it in the class newsletter too, unless you send him some news of your own!)

Anyway, lots more detail there, including a helpful link to a variety of discussions surrounding the hazing/Rolling Stone article turmoil.

That’s it, guys. Thanks for reading. Next year in Hanover!