

To the members of the Classes of 1967 and 1968:

This is my first report as a member of the Alumni Council for the two classes, having been elected by the Class of 1967 at the June 40th Reunion as the representative for the combined classes of '67 and '68. For those in the class of 1968 whom I do not know personally, you may wish to know that I have been designated "a '68 wannabe" by the 1968 executive committee for having participated in the Class of 1968 ski trip for almost ten years. If I couldn't be a '67, I would be a '68.

For those used to reading only the first page or couple of paragraphs, the Executive Summary follows:

#### The Alumni Council:

A new Alumni Council constitution was adopted increasing the size of the council from 101 to 120 members. These changes were made to broaden representation and enhance the two-way communication with alumni. This will have specific, although delayed, effect for our classes, moving off the one rep per two classes system long in place and moving to one rep per class up through 55th year. For us this will mean that in 2010 each class will "designate" a new rep. I say "designate" because part of the new Alumni Constitution is also aimed at insuring that even where terms expire in years other than a reunion year there is an election rather than an executive committee appointment as has been common in some classes. In fact it may be that the Class of 1968, due to meet in reunion this spring, could choose to have its election at such reunion for the slot to open in 2010. There is an Alumni Council subcommittee exploring various methods of electing Alumni Council representatives in order to help classes, clubs, and groups determine the best process for their constituency.

#### Dartmouth Today:

Dartmouth is in great shape with many new facilities open and on tap . The endowment is huge and Dartmouth is slightly ahead of schedule on a \$1.3B capital campaign, having passed the \$1B mark just recently . Classes are small (more faculty hired and new professorships endowed). Application rates are staggeringly high. President Wright is committed to the undergraduate experience.

Students are bright (Note: the incoming class of 2011 had an SAT median score of 2180 and 42% of the class were valedictorians or salutatorians), energized, and taking advantage of the amazing opportunities available to them, including one of the premier study abroad programs in the country.

A major new Life Sciences complex is scheduled

An enhanced vision for the sophomore summer experience- possibly focusing as a class on leadership, intensive coursework or a comprehensive curriculum focus on "great issues."

. A student movement is afoot to identify a new mascot . Students recently won a national Google contest for building a 3-D campus model. Dartmouth won its category, beating Stanford, Yale, and Harvard, among many others in a field of 350 schools including major engineering schools. See it at

<http://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/DigitalArts/projects/google.pdf>

#### Lawsuits, Legislation and Controversy:

NH State Rep. Maureen Mooney (R-Merrimack) has proposed a bill that would strip Dartmouth of autonomy to revise its charter - a right

enjoyed by most other private non-profit organizations in the state. The bill, which the College opposes, appears to be a direct response to the recent changes announced by the board of trustees in September. Rep. Mooney is not a graduate of the College and has declined until pressed recently to identify the alumni who asked her to introduce this bill. It now emerges that the bill was introduced at the request of Alex Mooney '93, a member of the Association of Alumni Executive Committee elected by petition last spring, and supported by the Hanover Institute group who are at the center of the lawsuit against the Trustees.

On Nov. 9th, the Alumni Council filed an amicus brief urging the court to dismiss the Association of Alumni ("AOA") lawsuit against the Trustees as contrary to the best interests of Dartmouth. It argued that the AOA Executive Committee lacks authority and standing to sue on behalf of alumni.

The Council also suggests that issues concerning the College should be resolved within the Dartmouth community, and not by the courts.

On December 1st, the Alumni Council passed a resolution, (which passed 62 to one, with one abstention) describing Trustee Todd Zywicki's comments criticizing the College at a conference held by the John William Pope Center for Higher Education in Raleigh, North Carolina on October 27, 2007, as "inappropriate, and contrary to Dartmouth's best interests." His remarks can be found at [www.alumni.dartmouth.edu/news.aspx?id=422](http://www.alumni.dartmouth.edu/news.aspx?id=422).

His comments included his assertion that former College President James Freedman was a "truly evil man," that higher education is dominated by an "orthodoxy" of political correctness, repressive speech codes and that donations to universities are driven by ulterior motives.

In response to Zywicki's comments the Board of Trustees voted to reprimand Mr. Zywicki. The Board concluded that he had exercised poor judgment and had violated his responsibilities as a Trustee of Dartmouth, which include acting in the best overall interests of Dartmouth and representing Dartmouth positively in words and deeds.

On December 7th, Trustees T.J. Rodgers '70, Peter Robinson '79, Todd Zywicki '88 and Stephen Smith '88, jointly filed an amicus brief in support of the Association of Alumni in its suit against the College in an attempt principally to bar the board from adding eight trustees not directly elected by alumni.

End of Summary.

Alumni Councilor Report- The Extended Version

At the risk of beating a dead horse one more time, there are some key issues that surround the controversy at Dartmouth today:

- . What is the Alumni Council?
- . What is the Association of Alumni and do they have the right to file a lawsuit?
- . What is the role of the Trustees and did they have the right to make the Governance changes it authorized?

What is the Association of Alumni?

The Association of Alumni  
(<http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/default.aspx?id=81>),

a body formed in 1854, is made up of the 68,800 alumni of the College and its graduate schools. Anyone who has matriculated at Dartmouth is a member of the Association upon graduation of the individual's class. The Association has an 11-person executive committee that is elected in entirety once a year by all-media vote. 6 members of this committee brought forth the lawsuit against the College on behalf of the Association.

The association's chief function is to conduct the balloting for the alumni spots on the Dartmouth Board of Trustees. This process has gotten somewhat complicated in recent years, culminating with six members of the Association of Alumni executive committee filing suit against the College over the composition of the Board of Trustees. Although the association has no explicit duties beyond running elections for the board spots, the current executive committee feels that it has a broad purview by virtue of Article IV 3 (i) of its Constitution: "The Executive Committee shall have charge of the general interests of the Association, including the raising of money to cover current expenses." It is this contention that is their justification for their right to file a lawsuit on behalf of all alumni.

If you want to know more about the positions of the Association executive committee members you can visit their blog at <http://DartmouthAOA.blogspot.com/>

What is the Association's Relation to the Alumni Council?

In 1913, recognizing the unwieldy nature of the ever expanding and alumni body, Ernest Martin Hopkins formed the Alumni Council (<http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/default.aspx?id=82>) to be the representative body for the Association of Alumni, in other words, all alumni. On a separate note, it is Hopkins that had one of our favorite quotes: "What is the purpose of a great College if not to create great alumni?" (Second only to John Sloan Dickey's "Your business here is learning (???)")

In a panel discussion during Alumni Council weekend, four members of the Association of Alumni Executive Committee spoke with the Alumni Council in 105 Dartmouth Hall. The panelists were Bill Hutchinson '76, president of the association; Tim Dreisbach '71; Frank Gado '58, second vice president of the association; and David Spalding '76, Dartmouth's vice president for Alumni Relations and secretary/treasurer of the association. Dreisbach and Gado may fairly be said to represent the insurgent/petition elements of the AOA and the Board. Key points from that panel:

. Tim argued that the Alumni Council exists to represent alumni as a clearinghouse for alumni sentiment, while the Association represents "the alumni in their role in the governance of the College."

. According to David Spalding, neither the Council nor the Association has any role at all in the actual governance of the College. That role, says David, resides with the Board of Trustees.

. Frank Gado said that the lawsuit is being funded by donors contributing to an account at Donor's Trust and through donations to the Hanover Institute, and that the system has been specifically

devised so that no one knows the identities of those funding the litigation. Despite numerous requests from council members he denied any knowledge of the funding. My personal suspicion is that non-Dartmouth parties with a substantial political agenda are funding the undertaking.

. Bill Hutchinson, the President of the Association had asked the Association's law firm, Williams & Connolly, (Washington D.C.) the same question and been refused the names because he was "not the client," Although he is the President of the Association.

#### The Role of the Trustees and Governance

As stated by David Spalding, the responsibility for governing the College and setting its strategic vision lies with the Board of Trustees, as would be true with any corporation. Each and every trustee has a fiduciary duty to the institution as a whole, not constituent groups or singular agendas.

While alumni remain an integral part of Dartmouth, perhaps John H. Mathias, Jr., '69 said it best in his September 21, 2007 Wall Street Journal editorial where he states, "Those subject to the governance of the trustees are: the administration, the faculty, and the students-- not the alumni. The administration, faculty and the students do not vote for any trustee, charter or alumni. Accordingly, there is not now nor has there ever been 'democracy at Dartmouth' as is currently being mistakenly argued by those who so stridently oppose the recent board action. Alumni do not have any legal or moral right to govern Dartmouth. The notion that simply by virtue of their having attended Dartmouth alumni have a perpetual right to govern the college is preposterous."

The only thing that is irrefutably clear is that there is enough blame to go around for everyone involved. There have been lawsuits, lies, failure to communicate, and a failure on the part of alumni to educate ourselves on the issues at hand. Thankfully, the recent spate of lawsuits has highlighted these shortcomings and positive change is afoot. There are renewed efforts by the College, its Trustees, and the Alumni Council to communicate more effectively. The recent Constitutional change is just one example of the renewed sense of mission the Alumni Council has- a mission "to sustain a fully informed, representative, and engaged exchange of information and sentiment between the alumni and the College, and to enhance and inspire alumni involvement that furthers the mission of the College."

#### Everything Else

##### Students in the Press- Winners of the National Google Earth Competition

One of the most exciting parts of the alumni council weekend is the opportunities councilors get to meet students and also learn about their frequently mindboggling accomplishments. In one of the more entertaining portions of the weekend, Computer Science Professor Lorie Loeb introduced several members of the team (Jessica Glago, Danny Gobaud, Gemma Ross and Jenn Huang) that won national recognition for winning Google's Build Your Campus in 3D Competition. (Search for Dartmouth at <http://earth.google.com>)

Leader Jessica Glago, a cognitive science major from Cleveland Heights, OH, detailed how she took charge of the efforts, which entailed taking thousands of pictures from all sides of the 225 buildings on campus. The team toiled for 14+ hours a day over two months to bring Dartmouth campus alive in 3-D. All this while taking a full course load.

Some 350 schools entered, including all the engineering schools. Dartmouth won its category, beating Stanford, Yale, and Harvard, among many others. The team won a trip to the Googleplex in Mountain View, California. Read the whole story and see a picture of these incredible students at <http://www.cs.dartmouth.edu/DigitalArts/projects/google.pdf>

#### Admissions

In a presentation to the Council, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Maria Laskaris '84 gave a full overview of the admissions process. "We truly believe that the students learn as much from their classmates as they do in the classroom," says Laskaris, "and so we are committed to creating as broad an array of students as possible. We look among all those extremely well qualified students for the ones who seem to really enjoy learning, and who are leaders, and we find ourselves looking for an indication of genuineness and authenticity." She further explains this is becoming harder and harder in the era of the online common application, where more than ever the applications tend to look the same. The alumni interviews are becoming more helpful than ever. With 1,430 early decision applications, an 11 percent increase from last year, they are on track to get 14,000 applications. Only 15% will receive letters of acceptance.

#### The State of the College

Adam Keller, Dartmouth's EVP of Finance and Administration detailed increases in personnel that have taken place in the past several years. Faculty costs are increasing at approximately three percent a year, while Administration overall adds about 1.1 percent a annually. The increasingly complex nature of the faculty and logistics of study abroad programs have necessitated much of the increase. Administrative increases include 12 positions in direct support of the faculty, eight to handle compliance (including compliance with the Patriot Act in international programs), eight in child care, and others in health services, athletics, safety and security, the capital campaign, and in support of the Student Life Initiative.

Provost Barry Scherr notes "The undergraduate focus of Dartmouth was there from the start, is still there, and will be there in the future." Dartmouth has around 4,100 undergraduates and around 1,600 total post-graduate students, about a third of whom are in the Tuck School. Scherr reiterated that they hire faculty members with a strong commitment to teaching. Carol Folt, dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, added, "You could not take the scholar out of the classroom or the teacher out of the scholar. Teaching is part of the advancement at Dartmouth, but we are keeping the research and teaching roles blended."

On the subject of students "shut out" of courses, Folt said there are 37,000 "enrollments" in classes each year. Of these, 1,000, or 3 percent, are closed out. The highest close-out rate is in studio art (25 percent). Government and econ have 200 out of 2,500, in part because those are such popular departments and because so many students are double-majoring in one of them. Often students subscribe to classes and then drop them.

Of course the toughest problem for "close-outs" is the small seminars with 16 students or fewer with the most enrollments for the most popular professors. The college is hiring more professors. The faculty ratio has gone down from 12/1 to 8/1 in recent years. Classes have remained small.

Provost Scherr also reported that 60 percent of the eligible students on campus are members of fraternities or sororities. They've spent a great deal of time making the system better, and emphasizing that brotherhood and sisterhood emphasize scholarship, leadership, and service. They also have a program of loans available to houses "to work in partnership with them to make the system strong." The controversy concerning the return of Beta Theta Pi to campus and the potential displacement of the sorority which has been leasing their building had not yet arisen at the time of the meeting, you can read all about it on line at [www.thedartmouth.com](http://www.thedartmouth.com).

Athletic Director Josie Harper reported on the athletic program. In football, she said, "Buddy Teevens is building a foundation for future success. The young men he's recruited are better citizens, more visible in other activities, and this fall committed themselves to go dry- to put everything on the table for the success of the team." The season included some close losses, but she is feeling good about football and basketball.

There are 33 varsity programs and 33 club sports, which in many cases have taken the place of JV teams. Club sports are a growing trend across the nation, for students who want intercollegiate sports but not the commitment of time required by varsity teams.

In fundraising, "dollars are up," says Carrie Pelzel, VP of Development, "and numbers are down." The Dartmouth College Fund is up \$2.2 million but down 4.3 percent in participation. Public controversy certainly plays a role. "Some people are delighted and are showing their support," said Pelzel. "Others are not happy and withholding their support." Of the \$1.3 billion goal for the Campaign for Dartmouth, they have \$975 million.

#### A Conversation with the Trustees

Trustees Al Mulley '70 and Jose Fernandez '77, two very impressive personalities, were on hand to talk with the Alumni Council on a broad variety of topics including the formation of three new committees- Alumni Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Student Affairs, "the nuts and bolts of the College." Other topics covered included:

. The trustees unanimously adopted a resolution in support of the faculty on the balance between research and teaching. "These are synergistic items at the College," said Jose. "Our resolution supports both teaching and the students' need to do research with professors."

. One issue facing the College is affordable housing for faculty members in the booming real estate market of the Upper Valley.  
. It was noted that the Student Assembly is working on a proposal to officially adopt the Moose as the College mascot.

Despite all the negative press, the state of the college seems quite good.

We all love Dartmouth, no one questions that. What remains to be seen is whether the AOA lawsuit has true merit and will shape our ideology for future generations.

For those of you who have made it this far, I announce the first "Find the most grammatical errors contest." The person who returns the full text to me with the most composition/grammar errors noted will win the honor of having his name listed in the next edition and be invited to edit the next edition. (NB, not MS Word formatting errors, I'm saving all those for the day I meet Bill Gates in person.)

My thanks to Andrew Koh '96, Alumni Council Rep. for the Dartmouth Club of Greater Boston, and Gersh Abraham, '58 Alumni Council Rep for the Class Agents Association for their respective permissions to copy portions of their reports. Notwithstanding my remix/plagiarism, I am responsible for all errors of fact and grammar.

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