

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee

Minutes from Meeting of July 31, 2010

Zimmerman Lounge, Blount Hall, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

In attendance: Ron Weiss, Cliff Groen, John Everett, John Engelman, Joe Nathan Wright and Peter Fahey; David Peck, Jim Lawrie, and Mark Waterhouse by conference phone.

1. President Ron Weiss called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending in person or by phone.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Lawrie reviewed handout material forwarded by him to Ron Weiss, and through him to the Executive Committee. Between 7/1/09 and 6/30/10, total dues income was \$22,635.00, plus some minor additional revenue. Expenses totaled approximately \$10,000.00, of which the largest amount was the Alumni Magazine. Net income for the year was \$12,641.44

Current Vanguard investments stand at \$59,360.52, and the bank account at \$10,922.34, for a total of \$70,282.86, per the handout.

Jim expressed concern about future costs for newsletters (3 expected) and that the Alumni magazine will get more expensive.

Jim suggested using Harris Broadcasting to send a message to people who paid last year but not this year (30 or so classmates).

The 50th Reunion Fund is currently at approximately **\$450,000**. Jim noted a timelag with getting reports from the College on direct donations, and from the Ledyard Bank. John Everett and others expressed concern that the names of donors be properly noted and acknowledged.

3. **Communications:** Jim then moved discussion on performance and opportunities with the **class website**. He noted that the site is averaging about 300 hits per month over past half year, up from monthly use in 2009. Jim noted that Peter Hoffman has suggested we use it more, and that all meeting notices, class columns, etc. include a link to the website.

Jim reported he is considering moving the website to a Dartmouth server, which will be free. Current website budget line is \$623 (which covers two years). Mark wondered if the site could include an index or site map, to facilitate navigating...Jim will investigate. Ron and Peter suggested that our Alumni Councilor, Gerry Bell, post reports to the class on the website.

4. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2010, distributed in advance, were approved with minor corrections: attendees include Mark Waterhouse and Joe Nathan Wright by phone, and Jim Lawrie noted that Harris Broadcasting is a firm that assists with class communications, but does not directly support financial transactions, such as dues collection.

5. 50th Reunion Gift: Bill Rich sent a report, since he was unable to attend. He has met with Janet Rosa of the DCF and Sylvia Racca of the Development Office. He noted a plan to do the first targeted mailing in January 2011. He also reported that he did not have a progress report on the DVD from Molly Bode.

Peter and the Committee felt January was too late. The Committee has consistently felt that 50th Reunion Gift funding solicitations should take place in the fall, so as not to conflict with the Annual Fund solicitations every spring. In addition, the plan was to get out a short DVD “teaser” shortly after Labor Day, with the full DVD available for selected mini-reunions in October and November. Ron will contact Bill to discuss timing of solicitation efforts.

6. Head Agent Report: Joe Nathan Wright reported that the class had met and exceeded every goal. The FY 10 goals was \$425,000, and 58% of our class base, or 358 classmates. The results were \$437,886 in donations, 58.2% participation and 359 classmates. Joe specifically credited Pete Wonson and Dave Walden, and 40 class volunteers, for a job well done.

Peter Fahey commended the results, and Joe’s leadership...he said the best effort since the “Waterhouse Days”.

Joe noted his plans for the future: better thank you’s to all, via email or letters, adjusting lists of prospects so that every volunteer has a group for solicitation that will include some likely donors...not disturbing existing relationships...creation of affinity groups (e.g. Minnesotans), and getting more of the solicitors comfortable with VOLT, the DCF tracking software. Goals for FY 2011 will be set in October by the College and Joe, and will be reviewed and endorsed by the Executive Committee at our October meeting.

7. Secretary’s Report: Besides approval of the minutes as corrected, David Peck had no specific Secretary’s Report. Jim did ask David to send a copy of the August Class notes for posting on the website.

8. Mini Reunions: John Everett reported. Both the Golf and Ski Minireunions were strong successes, and both planned for repeat performances in the coming year.

a. **Fall Minireunion:** The Yale Weekend of October 9-10 was confirmed. As Columbus Day weekend, many will have a three day weekend, and the foliage colors are likely to be peak. After discussion, it was agreed to do the dinner on Friday night at Queechee Club, rather than Saturday due to likely conflicts (Rugby Celebration, for one). John Everett to use Listserv to distribute information and request volunteer help to organize.

b. **Homecoming:** October 30. Classmates welcome for the parade, party on the AD lawn and the Harvard football game. No dinner is planned.

c. **Golf Minireunion:** planned for November 1 through 5 at Bandon Dunes. Ed Heald is again coordinating, and it looks fully subscribed.

- d. **The Ski Trip:** planned for March 5 through March 12, at Big Mountain in Montana, Gerry Bell again coordinating. Suggestion was made for travel to include taking the train from Chicago (the Empire Builder).
- e. **50th Reunion Gift Minireunions:** The Committee endorses the idea of creating a series of dinner evenings with classmates all around the country to present the video (see above) and solicit classmates. Early planning includes Houston (Dan Hedges is serving as coordinator).
- f. **65th Birthday:** No further updates from Ed Heald. **The Committee agreed that final decision should be made during the Fall of 2010** for the 2011 event, to maximize planning time for classmates. Foreign travel and cruise travel were thrown into the mix, with a general sense that a domestic location might be best to provide a good mix of attractive destination and affordable cost. There was also discussion regarding having separate trips organized for classmates who wish to travel abroad as a group with or without faculty accompaniment.

9. President's Report and Old Business: None

10. Next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Hanover, on October 9, from 10 to noon. Location TBD. The Committee will continue to try to have phone access available for those who cannot attend in person.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Peck
Secretary