

## **Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee**

Minutes from Meeting of October 1, 2011

Winship Conference Room, Blunt Alumni Center, Hanover, NH

In attendance: Ron Weiss, John Engelman, Gerry Bell, Ed Heald, Joe Nathan Wright, Peter Fahey, Jim Lawrie, Bill Rich, John Everett, David Peck, Janet Rosa (guest); Pete Hoffman and Mark Waterhouse by phone.

1. President Ron Weiss called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.
2. **Minutes Approval:** The minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2011, were approved as submitted.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Jim Lawrie reviewed handout material shared with the committee in advance. Overall income 7/1/2011 through 9/28/11 totals \$10,341.75 which included \$1,115.00 which was donated to the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Fund. Class dues for the period totaled \$9,225.00. Expenses during the same period total \$2,604.01, thus showing a net income of \$7,737.74.
4. Current investments stand at \$65,776.09, per the handout. \$19,676.80 in Vanguard Short Term Bond Index Fund, and \$46,099.29 in Vanguard Stock Market Index Fund. The mix of investments is approximately 30% bonds; 70% equities. It was again suggested the move funds out of the Bond Fund, potentially into a TIPS vehicle, but not until interest rates go up, and thus bonds decline in value.
5. Gerry Bell asked how many paper newsletters were going out, costing both printing and postage. Jim noted 614 newsletters are mailed. After discussion, Dave Gang volunteered to check with the College on whether we could do electronic newsletters to classmates with computers, and only use traditional paper and postage newsletters for those who don't have computers or internet. In other words, can we split the method of distribution and save money.
6. The 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Fund was approximately \$577,000 at the end of August, per Bill Rich. See further discussion below.
7. **Communications/Web Use:** Jim then moved discussion in his role as **Webmaster**. He reported that since January, the class site has seen rising use, although a little flat in August and September. It has been averaging about 600 visits per month.
8. Peter Fahey used this opportunity to discuss the **online auction** of Frank Couper memorabilia. He proposes a monthly auction of 10 items, with minimum prices on each (determined in part by how much he would be willing to pay for each). Jim Lawrie is planning to run like an Ebay auction, with photo and narrative description. The auction will be open to Dartmouth matriculates only. He is also wary of "spam bids". Start date will be soon, dependant upon an upcoming server swap.

9. **Head Agent Report:** Joe Nathan Wright reported on this year's campaign. He also started off by commending the work of Participation Co-Chairs Dave Walden and Peter Wonson. The FY 12 goals, like the prior year, are \$450,000, and 59% of our participating classmates (362 of 614). Last year, with similar targets, we raised \$437,000 from 348 classmates.

The Committee commended Joe and his team for a job well done on the FY 11 campaign.

10. Janet Rosa reported that there are coming changes to Alumni Fund Scoring Base. In future, the percentage will be calculated against 717 classmates, which includes the 103 "Fund Omits" from classmates who have asked not to be contacted. Administration is making this change to make calculations of participation more transparent and honest. In the past, some classes have manipulated results by having classmates donate in the name of other classmates to skew the results. However, the College does plan to verify/confirm the true "Fund Omits" and thus the true Scoring Base for each class via the following process:

- Restore them to the scoring base
- Write a letter to ask if they want to remain Fund Omits
- While awaiting response, no dues or other class funding requests
- The Green Corps will personally call
- Based on above, if they still want to be removed, they would be removed from the scoring base.

The Committee suggested that there be a timeframe or deadline on this process. Janet was asked to provide a written description of this new process

11. **50<sup>th</sup> Reunion Gift:** Bill Rich reported that he had met with Janet in September, and that a letter to all classmates was about to go out requesting support, to be followed by phone calls. He believes there are about 33 classmates capable of "leadership gifts".

He also believes the Couper Memorabilia online auction, intended to support the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion gift, will give good awareness to our class effort.

Since the Committee believes the purpose of the gift to endow the Freshman trips will appeal to many Dartmouth classes. Ron will write other class presidents to spread our appeal.

Bill will check into status of the "marketing" video with creator Molly Bode. The short version was very well received, but we don't know the status of the longer version.

It was noted Hugh Boss has volunteered to host a luncheon or dinner, in Santa Barbara, California, as a venue to present the video and push for support for the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion gift.

12. **Secretary's Report:** David Peck noted the success of the Williamsburg 65<sup>th</sup> birthday event, and the well attended debut of Pete Wonson's book in White River in late August, and also the recent death John Mitchell Weigel. An obituary is in preparation.
13. **Mini-Reunions:** The Class 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday in Williamsburg was a smashing success, greatly enjoyed by all who attended. The Committee commended Ed Heald on a job extraordinarily well done.

Ed also reported this year's **Golf Trip** will be during the first week in November 2011, again at Bandon Dunes in Oregon. 24 are planning to attend, including 8 to 10 classmates.

Gerry Bell reminded all of the planned **Class Ski Trip** in Aspen, Colorado March 3 through March 10, 2012. Coordination has passed to Jim Noyes, with help from John Blair, Clark Wadlow, Peter Fahey and others. Over 30 have indicated plans to attend, including a rumored Hans Preben Mehren from Norway.

The group next discussed the possibility of a European trip, to be held in a non-reunion, non-class birthday year (such as 2012 or 2014). A barge trip in France and bike trip in Italy were both mentioned. Ed noted that this type of trip would appeal to a smaller, more affluent group than the recent Williamsburg event. John Engelman noted it could also appeal to classmates who live in Europe. Ed will follow-up with Dartmouth Travel for more detailed ideas. Peter also suggested surveying the class, perhaps using a Harris email blast with the appropriate email header to ensure the email is opened and read. Jim Lawrie suggested that the class website could be a good response location for the survey.

14. **Planned Giving:** Ed Heald is planning to provide an article to Dave Gang for insertion in a future class newsletter. He noted one strategy of planned giving is to change the beneficiary on one's life insurance.
15. **President's Report and Old Business:** None
16. **New Business:**
  - a. Jim Lawrie offered a suggestion that some type of **multi-year dues option** be created. For example, 5 years for \$300 (normally 4 years of dues), or \$1,000 lifetime. The Committee was interested, but wondered how it would be counted in future years, and what happens if expenses rise significantly. Jim will do further research with Jennifer Casey.
  - b. Ed recommended that **2013 45th Reunion Planning** begin. After consideration, it was agreed to maintain June as the reunion time.

John Engelman agreed to serve as chairman, and Ed Heald and John Everett agreed to serve as his active vice-chairmen because John may miss some of the reunion activities due to other commitments during the reunion. Dave Walden, who is moving to New Hampshire in the near future, will serve as the Treasurer. John and Ed will promptly request one of the newer dorms with air conditioning, as well as venues that they think would best serve us.

- c. Gerry Bell also requested that we think about nominations for honorary degrees for classmates. He noted that the College often includes a member of the 50<sup>th</sup> reunion class as one of the honorees, and it would be useful to get our recommendations/suggestions in early.

**17. Next Executive Committee Meeting: TBD**

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Peck  
Secretary