



Dear mates of the class of '68,

My first Alumni Council meeting in October as class representative gave me a chance to look under the hood of Dartmouth College.

First thing I learned is that the Class of 1968 has been well-served by my predecessor Gerry Bell whose reports to the class were cited as a model.

Dartmouth's new president Philip Hanlon '77—those of us at the reunion in June got to size him up at a conclave in Spalding--knows Dartmouth culture. But as provost of the University of Michigan—chief academic officer and overseer of the budget—he knows the issues.

“Higher education is on an unsustainable trajectory,” Hanlon told us. He plans to ask each department to make room for new initiatives by cutting 1 ½ percent in prior spending.

Hanlon wants Dartmouth to hire new faculty in clusters around major problems facing society citing health care delivery science as a model. Others: sustainability, poverty, energy policy.

“We need to stress experiential learning,” he told us as a path to wisdom. In contrast to gathering information, which with the resources on the internet is a free good, and in contrast with knowledge which, Hanlon said, is close to being a free good.

Other key points:

Sexual assault and violence. Dartmouth has turned to Jen Sayre '93 who believes that the only effective way to deal with sexual violence is through training bystanders to intervene before a situation gets out of hand.

Dartmouth investments. Dartmouth's investment team oversees \$4.6 billion including the endowment and defined benefit pension plans. It's done pretty well—9.2% over the ten years by reducing its share of global public equities and increasing venture capital.

Endowment stats. Dartmouth's endowment per student is \$564,000 fourth in the Ivy League behind Princeton: 1.2 million, Yale 1.6 million, Harvard 1.5 million.

Costs per undergraduate. It's \$128,000 a year. Tuition, room and board are now \$57,996. Another \$70,004 is funded by other sources including endowment distribution.

Steve Mandel '78, head of the trustees, said it's important for the board and senior leadership to be aligned: "We are very aligned here" as he emphasized the need for cluster hiring of faculty rather than department by department decisions.

Also a quote from Mandel: "We are not going to be Dartmouth University."

Balloting in uncontested elections: Early in 2014, we're going to be voting on an amendment to the constitution of the Association of Alumni that would eliminate the requirement for balloting in uncontested trustee elections. This wouldn't affect our right to nominate candidates by petition.

If you haven't been to Hanover recently, you should make the trip. I stopped in the Jaffe Friede gallery, and saw an amazing exhibit by Daniel Heyman '85 who is currently the artist in residence. His drawing "Artist Eats Pho" recounts the spiritual epiphany of a 10-year-Vietnamese boy thinking he is going to die as he faces 10-story waves on a creaky, overcrowded boat as he flees Vietnam after the war.

But suddenly he has an insight that he is one with the ocean that seems so threatening: "in that moment there was this deep knowing that we all are going to live."

When it's good, you don't return to Dartmouth just to remember but also to reawaken.

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