

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee

Minutes from Meeting of February 8, 2014

Zimmerman Lounge, Blunt Alumni Hall, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

In attendance: Peter Fahey, Dave Walden, John Everett, Bill Rich, Ed Heald, John Engelman, Bill Stahl, Bob Ross, Jennifer Casey (guest), Janet Rosa (guest), Trip Davis '90 (guest), his son Norwood Davis (future 2030, guest) and David Peck in person; Joe Nathan Wright, Gerry Bell, Jim Lawrie, Ron Weiss, Peter Wonson, Dave Gang and Dick Olsen by conference call.

Peter Fahey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, in person and by conference call.

Follow up from last meeting:

“Set the Record Straight”: Peter reaffirmed the idea that classmates without a perfect record of giving to the Dartmouth College Fund (i.e., missed one or more years) be able to retroactively give to cover the missed years, and thus be able to join the Hal Ripley Society. It was suggested other class (Class of 1954) have done such. Joe Nathan Wright to follow up with Janet Rosa.

“Most Wanted List”: Develop a list of classmates who have been inactive but whom friends want to see. This can be part of the ramp up to our 50th. Every Executive Committee member on the full Exec Comm mail list is asked to forward names of any and all “wanted” classmates to Dave Gang for inclusion in a cumulative regular column in future newsletters. This column would also request that all classmate/readers send in their additions to the list

Communications with Widows: Ed Heald had created draft letters to widows: one to recent widows, one to widows of long departed classmates, with both letters aimed at reconnecting the women to the Class and College. The Committee endorsed this initiative.

Comments:

- Jennifer Casey cautioned that some widows would have moved on with their lives, remarried etc, and might not be interested.

Follow up steps:

- All Exec Committee members were asked to submit their editorial suggestions to Ed.
- John Engelman suggested identifying one or two interested widows (e.g., Wendy Blackman?) who could lead or support the initiative
- Ed to work with Jennifer to get full list of widows, names and addresses, for mailing revised letters.

2018 Connections Program: John reported on this relatively new College initiative: The Class of 1968 would begin interaction with the sister class of 2018 as that class enters the College. One activity would be for 68 classmates to serve breakfast to incoming freshmen during their trips in the College grant, serving as a “trip angel”. Bear Everett and possibly Jack Noon could lead that group of volunteers. A second activity would be to staff a tent on Matriculation Day, and provide a Connections pin to every incoming freshman. Approximate cost for the pins: \$1,500. And after the Class of 2018

selects its class leaders, develop connections and shared activities between our two classes over the next four years, leading up to their 2018 graduation and our 50th Reunion.

Class Projects Program: The Committee was joined by Trip Davis '90, and his son Norwood (future class of 2030). Trip has recently been appointed Director of the Office of Entrepreneurship and Technology Transfer. Trip outlined the College's considerable efforts at establishing and supporting innovation and technology transfer, both for the more traditional graduate school and faculty initiatives and for undergraduate efforts. A new facility called the Innovation and Incubator Center is about to open. The Class can potentially aid these efforts by reviewing and choosing to fund as class projects promising student ideas that require \$5-10,000 support to advance. One intriguing such idea would be to help establish a Dartmouth-specific crowd-funding capability.

Discussion followed:

- Committee feels the purpose of class support would be “good deed” rather than an investment for profit.
- Treasurer Jim Lawrie notes that the class funds (see below) can afford to support some selective, small class projects, once endorsed.
- John noted that sufficient funds should be retained in the treasury to support the 50th reunion and/or 50th Reunion gift.

Follow up Steps:

- Trip was asked to provide several proposals for the next Executive Committee meeting for consideration for Class funding as projects.
- Ed suggested, and Peter agreed, to include in his newsletter column a description of this possible Class program including solicitation of input from classmates as to projects that might be especially appealing.

Class Birthday Greeting: The Committee agreed that this particular idea was a little “hokey” and not worth pursuing, especially in light of other promising class initiatives.

Survey: The Committee remains in support of this initiative to assess classmate opinions and ideas on class activities, programs etc. It was noted the questions should be “closed end” rather than open ended; and should be multiple choice. All Committee members to forward suggested questions to Peter for inclusion in future survey.

Class Officer's Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Jim Lawrie (by phone) presented an overview of Class finances: For the current fiscal year (July through early February) income of \$27,452.40 and expenses of \$8,550.34. Total balance in checking account: \$41,289.74. On investments, we have \$95,721.28 in stock index funds, \$28,934.16 in bond index funds, for a total of \$124,155.44.

Per last Executive Committee direction, and given our current balance health, Jim will move \$15,000 from checking into additional investments, with \$10,000 to stocks, \$5,000 to bonds. This will still leave adequate funds to support class projects from the Treasury (see above)

The Executive Committee endorsed raising our annual contribution to the Dartmouth Athletic Sponsor program from \$350 to \$500.

Webmaster Report: Jim reported our average daily visits continue to grow slightly, with July and August quite busy. The layout has been upgraded. He plans to get information from John Engelman about the Class Connections program for inclusion on the website

Class Agent: Joe Nathan Wright (by phone) noted that the VOLT software is being upgraded, and thus his information is a little less than current. The 2014 class goal is \$400,000, with a classmate participation goal of 353. He worries about attrition among his volunteers. He had 36 solicitors in 2013 and aims to have 40 for 2014. Janet Rosa noted that the College plans to move the class non-contributors to the Green Corps, moving them from the solicitor groups, where the unsuccessful calls can create discouragement to the solicitors.

50th Reunion Gift: Bill Rich reported fund as of end of December was approximately \$616,000 in principal and \$282,000 of accumulated earnings, for total of \$898,239. He is planning to use the Newsletter and future mailings to focus on “Trips” in general, to garner continuing support. He shared stories of the first Dartmouth trip: Jonathan Ledyard, who did a remarkable amount of worldwide travel during the late 18th century. He noted that the fund really needs one or more large gifts to truly gain momentum.

Newsletter: David Gang (by phone) will be soliciting news for the next newsletter, and in particular more pictures (1 MB in quality), which are well received. He hopes to prepare next newsletter in three to four weeks. Dick Olsen promises to send along Alumni Council news, as Gerry Bell did in the past.

Secretary: David Peck noted class column news gathering comes from multiple sources, including direct emails, calls and occasional Facebook postings. One interesting side effect of the sad news of classmate deaths and creation of obituaries is that significant sharing of classmate news, and even the impetus for small reunions. One example is how the recent death of Michael Sprando triggered a future TEP reunion.

Mini-Reunions: Gerry Bell (by phone) noted successful current efforts and ideas for future ones. Ongoing successful mini-reunions include golf in Oregon, skiing at Park City, Utah in March 2014, and a second Virgin Islands cruise May 11 through 20, 2014, for which five boats are already chartered.

At Sunday River, Maine skiing, a new mini-reunion event for this year during the last week of January, it was noted that Bob Block was there with grandson who was parallel skiing at age 2.

Future ideas include a planned February 27 multiple classmate gatherings to watch Bob Reich’s “Inequality for All”. Peter volunteered to host one on Long Island; John one in Hanover.

Ed is working on a 68 turns 68 theater event in New York City during the fall of 2014 that has received considerable classmate interest.

Gerry's informal classmate survey on future ideas has indicated support for rafting in the Grand Canyon and a wine safari in California. Other ideas include a visit to Key West (suggested by Peter Wonson), a theater event in Las Vegas (suggested by Tobey Matthias), and climbing the Mahoosic Mile on the Appalachian Trail (suggested by Bear Everett).

There was early discussion of the fall mini-reunion date: Holy Cross weekend (homecoming is October 11, 2014) or the Harvard game weekend November 1. Final decision to be at May Executive Committee meeting.

It was noted that classmates would likely be in Hanover in September as part of the Connections Program (see above) and that should be taken into consideration when the fall mini-reunion date is finalized.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tentatively, Saturday, May 31, in Hanover, time and location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

David B. Peck
Secretary