

Dartmouth Class of 1968 Executive Committee

Minutes from Meeting of February 7, 2015

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

In attendance: Peter Fahey, David Walden, Bill Rich, Ed Heald, John Engelman, and John Everett in person; Jim Lawrie, Joe Nathan Wright, Peter Wonson, Dave Gang, and Bob Ross by conference call.

1. Peter Fahey called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone, in person and by conference call. In the absence of David Peck, Peter asked David Walden to prepare minutes from the meeting.
2. Follow-up items from last meeting:
 - **Class Project:** Peter shared an e-mail quarterly update from Jamie Coughlin at the Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network (“DEN”) discussing the crowdfunding initiative that our class is supporting financially. The update reported on the progress of the Tray Bien (new wait staff serving tray design), Grassroot Soccer (non-profit HIV awareness for African girls), and Stand By Me (non-profit organization providing stander devices for children with cerebral palsy) crowdfunding campaigns.
 - **Communication with Class Widows:** Ed Heald provided a summary of his and David Walden’s meeting with the classes of 1948 and 1958 about class widows programs and he presented the final draft of our class’s letter to widows, which Peter Fahey will sign as class President. Bob Ross will contact George Merrill’s widow, Betty, to ask if she would be interested in serving as the widows’ representative on our Executive Committee. It was agreed that, for the time being, widows will not be charged class dues and will be invited to class reunions as our guests with respect to registration fees.
 - **Set the Record Straight (“STRS”):** Peter Wonson reminded us that this program will permit qualified classmates to supplement their regular Dartmouth College Fund contributions and be recognized as “every year” givers even though they have missed making contributions in a few past years. Currently, 28 of the 111 qualified classmates have completed the STRS program, resulting in additional contributions of almost \$20,000.
3. **Class Partnering Pilot Program (“VOX 8”).** David Walden reported that the VOX 8 program has already given rise to the information-sharing meeting about class widows programs that Ed Heald described in his report earlier in the meeting. He asked classmates to contact him about any other class projects or programs about which similar inter-class information-sharing might be helpful.
4. **Dartmouth Alumni Community Service Day (May 2, 2015):** Peter Fahey mentioned that classes are being urged to participate in this program. It was suggested that the local nature of many service projects would make Dartmouth

regional alumni clubs more effective than classes in implementing those service projects.

5. Class Officer's Reports:

- **Treasurer/Webmaster:** Jim Lawrie provided a summary of the class's financial accounts. As of 1/31/15, the class's account balances are: (1) checking - \$18,404.66; (2) short-term bond index fund - \$37,065.94; and (3) stock market index fund - \$127,376.36, totaling \$182,846.96. Our class's revenues for the current fiscal year (as of 1/31/15), which consist mostly of dues (the amount of which is on track with previous years), are \$22,066.01, while expenses of \$13,453.45 have been paid, resulting in net income of \$8,612.56.

As Webmaster, Jim reported that our class website has received a monthly average of about 2,000 visits over the past year, with most visitors using pages for our class newsletters, Executive Committee minutes, class events, and classmate obituaries. Jim also presented an interesting chart showing the website's usage by country last month.

- **Class Agent:** Joe Nathan Wright supplemented Peter Wonson's STRS update by informing us that another STRS solicitation letter (which will list those classmates who have completed the program) will be going out soon.

Joe Nathan also reported on the class's 2014-15 Dartmouth College Fund performance. Our goals are \$400,000 and 50% participation (i.e., gifts from 349 classmates). To date, we have received about \$236,000 in cash (\$241,000 including pledges) from 155 classmates (168 including pledges). Although there are some lingering problems with the VOLT system that make year-to-year comparisons difficult, Joe Nathan estimates that this year's results to date are about even with last year's at this time. The usual major solicitation efforts will be made in May and June by Joe Nathan's team, which includes 31 active solicitors.

- **50th Reunion Freshman Trips Fund:** Bill Rich reported that, as of 12/31/14, the fund has received approximately \$688,700 in donations and had about \$381,800 in earnings, for a total of \$1,070,511. Bill will check with Dan Nelson in the Dartmouth Outdoor Programs office about the amount of the fund that will be needed for the First Year Trips endowment and what to do with any overage with which we may end up (e.g., Moosilauke Ravine Lodge complex renovation plans).
- **Newsletter:** Dave Gang reminded us that the newsletter is one of the two most important ways of promoting class engagement, mini-reunions being the other. Dave also reported that he has been asked to serve as a leader of a group that will identify and promote newsletter "best practices." He is receiving more photos using the best format for inclusion in the newsletter. Dave expects the next edition of the newsletter to go out in late winter or early spring, probably in March.
- **Secretary:** David Peck was unable to participate in this meeting.
- **Mini-Reunions:** Gerry Bell was unable to participate in today's meeting because of a medical problem (Tree 1, Skier 0), and the committee wished

him a speedy recovery. Other participants in our meeting reported that the class mini-reunions for golf at Bandon Dune in Oregon, and for skiing at Okemo Mountain in Vermont were very successful. More mini-reunions are scheduled for Sun Valley in March (a record number of sign-ups for this ski trip have already been received), Key West on the first weekend in May (tentative), and the Virgin Islands sailing flotilla in May.

- **Class Connections Chair:** John Engelman reported that there will be a Class Connections reception for the Class of 2018 this afternoon at the Top of the Hop; refreshments will be served and Jere Daniell '55, Professor of History Emeritus, will speak about the history of Winter Carnival. John encouraged all classmates and their spouses to attend. John also informed us that the next Class Connections event might be a picnic or a barbecue during the Class of 2018's Parents Weekend (May 1-3).
- **President:** Earlier during the meeting, Peter Fahey solicited ideas about worthwhile class projects. Peter then opened the floor for a discussion of ideas about preparing for our 50th reunion in 2018.

6. Preparations for 50th College Reunion: Peter Fahey began our committee's discussion by indicating the need to find a 50th reunion "Chief Operating Officer" and the names of a few classmates were mentioned. We then discussed the following components of the reunion:

- An intense pre-reunion attendance building effort: It was agreed that this effort should start this summer.
- A reunion event schedule: Peter recognized the need for obtaining a list of the College's official events that will need to be included on our reunion schedule. We will also need to make decisions with respect to pre-union and post-reunion activities that the class may want to schedule. David Walden suggested that we also obtain copies of the reunion schedules of prior classes that have recently held their 50th reunions.
- Memorial service: It was suggested that Arnie Resnicoff be approached about his availability to lead the service.
- A theme for the reunion: An example would be "Then and Now."
- Reunion lodging: The possibility of securing supplemental off-campus lodging (e.g., Lake Morey Inn) was raised.
- Financial assistance: Recognizing that some of our classmates may not be able to afford to attend our 50th reunion, the possibility of "scholarships" was mentioned.
- Reunion book, cd, or alternate form of publication on electronic media: Jim Lawrie suggested that we explore some form of publication, perhaps using our class website, that would provide a "count-down of reminiscences" of events that occurred during our four years at Dartmouth; it was mentioned that the College Archives might be a good resource for this project.
- Specific Programs: One classmate has already suggested a program about the war in Vietnam and how it affected our class; the general consensus

was that such a program should be focused on healing, given the range and strength of opinions on this topic that existed and still exist among our classmates. John Everett mentioned that a potential resource for such a program might be Phil Schaefer '64, who has recently edited a book of essays by his classmates who are veterans. Other potential topics for programs, events, or displays mentioned in our discussion were classmates in the arts, a display of classmates' work (e.g., books, photography), "unsung heroes," and a "theater of stories."

7. **Spring 2015 Class Events and Meetings:** The next Executive Committee meeting was scheduled tentatively for Saturday, May 30, 2015, in Hanover at a time and place to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

David L. Walden
Substitute Secretary and Utility Infielder