

## 219th Alumni Council Committee Summaries

### Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs Committee fall meeting featured a strategic planning process for future years, discussion on the Rassias Award, and a presentation by Guarini School Dean F. Jon Kull '88. The committee highlighted areas of focus for its multi-year vision, including better leveraging academic resources that exist outside of the College but within the alumni body (i.e. alumni who are faculty or experts in their fields) and better communicating Dartmouth's current educational pedagogy and priorities to alumni so that alumni are abreast of the challenges and opportunities facing higher education. The committee also expressed a desire by alumni to learn the same concepts that students are learning today at Dartmouth (i.e. the "Dartmouth as a Religion" alumni lecture was based on a real course offering). The committee went on to discuss improving the dissemination of existing online educational resources to alumni. The committee also discussed creating a tool to allow alumni to submit their own new and existing user-created educational content to the College for dissemination to alumni. The committee determined to form two subcommittees to address the aforementioned issues. The subcommittees will be centered around 1) communicating the state of education at Dartmouth to alumni and 2) communicating education content and related opportunities to alumni. The committee moved on to discuss the Rassias Award and made changes to the selection process in order to facilitate the committee getting to know the candidates better in order to streamline the selection process with the Dean of the Faculty. Dean of the Guarini School of Graduate and Advanced Studies Jon Kull presented to the committee on the state of graduate studies at Dartmouth. The committee expressed that this sort of presentation fulfilled their desire to learn about educational trends and pedagogy at Dartmouth.

### Alumni and Student Engagement Committee

The Alumni and Student Engagement Committee met to review its committee charter and mission for the year and begin planning for 2019-20 work. Continuing an evolution of the committee begun in 2018, the group will explore connections between alumni and students throughout the alumni experience. The committee leaders reviewed progress made last year on its first deliverables: a pilot around FSP/LSA/study abroad connections and sharing feedback on the class connections program before discussing area of interest and possible deliverables for this year. The group welcomed Tracy-Dustin-Eichler, director of the Center for Social Impact, to learn more about her work and in particular the *Bridges to Impact* program and have a discussion about what she has learned about alumni-student and alumni-alumni connections. For the final part of the meeting, the group reviewed existing touchpoints and programs and shared ideas for improvements and new initiatives. Through a Post-it exercise, the committee clustered ideas and then broke out into sub-working groups to discuss possible overlap in ideas and next steps for a project plans including: continued place-based connections around off-terms; developing better alumnihood/alumni 101 resources to message to students and new alumni; and supporting first generation and low-income students. The committee leadership will follow up with these groups going forward and set a winter call to develop action plans on what they can cover between October and the spring Alumni Council meeting.

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### Alumni Service Committee Meeting

The Dartmouth Alumni Service Committee met Thursday, October 17 during the 219<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dartmouth Alumni Council. The meeting was opened by Chair David Dietze '78, and the members introduced themselves to start the meeting. The committee welcomed Victoria Gonin, deputy director of Alumni Relations, and she presented on The Call to Serve. At the time of the meeting the Call to Serve initiative had garnered 237,000 hours, 95% of the way to the 250,000 hour goal. Victoria spoke to the committee about service after the 250<sup>th</sup> year comes to an end and how service will continue. She is working on a pilot non-profit advisory board that will match alumni volunteers to a nonprofit client in the Upper Valley.

The second half of the committee meeting was focused on the Alumni Day of Service, May 2, 2020. The committee familiarized themselves with the 2020 Day of Service outreach plan and contact sheet, and set a goal of scheduling 55 Service projects to be held on or around the Day of Service. They will begin their outreach before the holiday season.

### Athletics Committee

The Dartmouth Alumni Service Committee met Thursday, October 17 during the 219<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Dartmouth Alumni Council. Cherie Comeau '02, chair, opened the meeting, followed by the members of the committee introducing themselves. The committee welcomed Harry Sheehy, '55a, director of athletics and recreation; Bob Ceplikas '78, deputy director of athletics; and Ian Connole, senior associate athletic director for Peak Performance. Harry, Ian, and Bob provided updates to the group on a wide array of areas including Dartmouth Peak Performance, facilities, campaign initiatives, staff transitions, Wearers of the Green, and Operation Varsity Blues.

The second half of the committee meeting was focused on two panels: a panel featuring four coaches:

*Student-Athlete Well-Being – Handling the Stresses*, and a student-athlete panel: *Benefits & Challenges of the Ivy League Student-Athlete Experience*. These panels allowed the members of council to hear directly from coaches and student-athletes on their experiences at Dartmouth and vision for their individual teams. At the end of the meeting, Cherie provided brief remarks and thanked the coaches, students, and Athletics staff before adjourning the group.

### Communications Committee

The Communications Committee discussed the Alumni Council mission and values around communications. The mission of the Communications Committee is to help Councilors engage with their constituents and report those findings to the Alumni Liaison Committee. The committee values are brevity, trust, and reciprocity. The committee brainstormed ways to diversify Alumni Council communications. The group also discussed recent changes to the communications paradigm of the Council, emphasizing that with the introduction of the president's message, Councilors have a responsibility to answer questions from constituents after the meeting and may wish to send an email. If they do, there is freedom for them to tailor their message to what their constituents most want/need to hear. A key deliverable between the fall and spring meetings of

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the Council is for the Communications Committee to produce a handbook with guidance for how to communicate, images, tips, and other instructions. The group discussed the development of a tool to enable interactive discussions between Councilors during meetings to share resources around how to answer difficult questions.

### Enrollment and Admissions Committee

Nicole Moser '89, chair of the Enrollment and Admissions Committee, welcomed committee members and led introductions. Introductions included the member's involvement in admissions volunteerism at Dartmouth. Nicole shared the mission statement of the Enrollment and Admissions Committee and asked members to reflect and discuss how we best communicate our work to the larger alumni body.

Lee Coffin '89a, Vice Provost for Enrollment & Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, followed Nicole's introduction by reflecting on the current state of Admissions and the volatile landscape. He discussed the Harvard lawsuit, Varsity Blues, and a growing mistrust in the fairness of the admissions process, fueled in part by the media. He discussed Dartmouth's commitment to holistic review and the history of this process at Dartmouth, dating back to Dartmouth's first Dean of Admissions in 1921. Dartmouth's identity involves being a liberal arts college, meeting full financial need, being need blind, and being part of the Ivy League. Lee discussed the role that athletics play at Dartmouth and our commitment to being a Division 1, NCAA institution.

Last year the Admissions office achieved the triple crown: The largest applicant pool ever, the lowest admit rate, and the highest yield. These milestones were achieved as the student body continues to diversify and reach new academic heights. The committee brought up questions about how Dartmouth can compete with peer institutions, and other institutions, which may offer better financial aid packages based on merit and in-state scholarships. Dean Coffin shared that middle-class families are still falling through the cracks in terms of financial aid due to the limit of demonstrated need as defined by federal standards. Right now, 70% of applicants apply for financial aid. Dean Coffin led the committee through an exercise comparing the Class of 1986 with the class of 2023.

Nicole led members in a discussion of potential committee projects including Book Awards, a review and enhancement of Admitted Student Events, the T-shirt Delivery Program, and the creation of a How-to-Dartmouth guide for first year students. Meg Lysy '99, Director of the Admissions Ambassador Program, provided an overview of an AAP and Dartmouth for Life's shared goal in which alumni interviewers would reconnect with and mentor the students they had interviewed following the students' graduation.

After a discussion, the Committee agreed to focus on a review of admitted student event (ASE) best practices to enhance and expand the reach of the program and to participate in the mentoring program. Directly following the committee meeting several members of the Enrollment and Admissions Committee met with members of the Professional Development Committee to discuss a pilot for the mentoring program. Nicole explained that the committee would be scheduling follow-up conference calls to discuss the ASE Best Practices project and the joint Mentoring Project.

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### Professional Development Committee

The Alumni Council Professional Development Committee fall meeting featured a welcome from chair Walter Foster '83. Tee Lotson '82 briefly reported out from her time at the Global Summit in London, to highlight the opportunities for engaging international parents regarding student internships and winterim opportunities. Walter Palmer '90, director of Dartmouth for Life and secretary for the committee, gave an update on the unit's past and future activities, particularly on the upcoming Future of Work Symposiums (Sports in NYC in November 2019; Film & Media in LA in February 2020; Healthcare in Hanover in May 2020), as well as a shift in focus to providing more resources and career development opportunities for young alumni. Jay Davis '90, director of First Year Student Enrichment Program (FYSEP), discussed an opportunity for the committee to help pilot a FYSEP mentoring program, pairing recent new FYSEP alumni with more seasoned FYSEP alumni. Sub-committee working plans were tabled for further discussion on due to a shortage of time.

### Young Alumni Committee

The Young Alumni Committee met on Friday, October 18 from 4:30-6:00 PM. During the meeting, the group did teambuilding, discussed student-alumni engagement and then acted as a focus group for the Dartmouth for Life's department programming. In the focus group, they discussed a wide variety of initiatives and how best to make them well suited for our youngest alumni. Some of the topics included career panels, career treks, continuing education, wellness opportunities, and Camp Dartmouth.