

220th Alumni Council Committee Summaries

Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs Committee meeting began with an introduction to the virtual meeting format by Alumni Relations liaison Patrick Bedard and was followed by a message of welcome from the committee vice chair, Omar Rashid '00. The first agenda item featured an update from committee chair Jonathan Lazarow '05 and Rashid regarding changes to the mission of the committee as a result of the Alumni Council's proposed changes to the AAC's purpose. Committee members broadly agreed with the proposed new direction for the committee featuring an emphasis on making alumni aware of lifelong learning opportunities and increasing accessibility to alumni lifelong learning via virtual engagement tools. Committee members agreed that the shift in the College's student-facing academic programs to virtual content in light of COVID-19 could create opportunities to improve virtual lifelong learning for alumni as well. The committee resolved to meet again virtually during the summer to discuss next steps in fulfilling the committee's new mission. The committee then discussed updates to the process used to determine the Rassias Faculty Award recipient in collaboration with the Dean of the Faculty Office. The committee agreed that changes to the selection process increased transparency and empowered the committee to better select the best possible candidate. The Alumni Relations liaison then conducted a brief presentation on the award nominees and announced that electronic voting to determine the recipient would be opened through the end of the weekend. Professor of Government Michael Mastanduno was ultimately selected via vote as the award winner. The committee then heard from two faculty presenters, Professor of Religion and Academic Affairs Committee Faculty Liaison Susan Ackerman '81 and Professor of English and Dartmouth Center for the Advancement of Learning (DCAL) founder Thomas Luxon on challenges and considerations surrounding remote research and teaching at Dartmouth in the current COVID-19 environment. Committee members expressed that many of the lessons learned by Dartmouth faculty in conducting virtual teaching and research could be translated to the provision of virtual Lifelong Learning content to alumni. Chitra Narasimham '92 was selected vice chair of the committee.

Alumni and Student Engagement Committee

The Alumni and Student Engagement Committee met via Zoom on Thursday, May 14 for its spring meeting. The group reviewed the progress of its working groups including an "Alumni 101" group focused on engaging the newest members of the alumni committee and new efforts this year to support the '20 graduates. The group also featured a presentation by and discussion with Jay Davis, Director of the First Year Student Enrichment Program (FYSEP) and King Scholars Program, on FYSEP's work supporting students and opportunities for alumni to engage. Lastly, the group reviewed the alumni task force recommendations on the future work of the committee, confirmed Caryn Karo '04 as its new vice chair, and thanked outgoing councilors for their work on the committee the past three years.

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Alumni Service Committee

Chair David Dietze '78 opened the meeting with introductions and asked everyone how they have been faring in this current environment. After introductions finished, Cheryl Bascomb '82, Vice President of Alumni Relations, joined the committee for a discussion of how the service committee can engage alumni in service outside of the Day of Service. She asked the committee how they can make a broader connection for the Dartmouth community with service, and to think about how to leverage creating projects in needy communities, not just in the large cities with robust clubs.

Andrew Rayner '10 noted that the service committee could act as a conduit to lift up and raise awareness for clubs and the local organizations that service those areas. This conversation segued into how the Service Committee can promote virtual service. Jo Golub '98 mentioned creating templates that clubs could follow to do virtual service, such as highlighting the organizations in their club's area and sharing it with members. Several clubs used this model to promote service in their areas in lieu of the May 2 Day of Service.

The meeting closed with talking about improving the Day of Service next year. Keli'i Opulauoho '96 said that we should include mini-reunion chairs in the Day of Service outreach going forward. Tom Guidi '74 mentioned that he was frustrated with the lack of response from some groups and outdated contact information. This is an issue that the College continues to work on. Julie Levenson '84 was elected vice chair. Nadine Parris '06 will step into the chair role in July.

Athletics Committee

The Dartmouth Alumni Council Alumni Committee met Friday morning before the Dartmouth Alumni Council meeting. Cherie Comeau '02, chair, opened the meeting with an update on the current standings of the committee. Cherie discussed with the group the latest updates regarding the impending vote to dissolve the committee. The committee welcomed and heard the insights of Harry Sheehy, '55a, Director of Athletics and Recreation and Bob Ceplikas '78, Deputy Director of Athletics. Harry and Cep discussed their reasoning for supporting the dissolution of the committee and clearly mentioned that there was not the value provided from the committee that was wanted. Additionally, Cep noted that the changes in the Athletics' staff and resources over recent years made the committee's work redundant and neither he nor Harry could come up with a way for the committee to serve a relevant purpose. Harry and Cep said that they preferred to present to the entire Alumni Council to broadcast their message more effectively. This was the first time the committee heard from Harry and Cep directly regarding their justification for supporting the dissolution of the committee.

Harry and Bob then provided updates to the group on a multitude of areas relating to COVID-19 including the spring season update & eligibility issues. They also offered overviews on admissions and budget challenges, facilities, campaign initiatives, and staff transitions.

The second half of the committee meeting was focused on two panels. The first group of panelists were Ian Connole, Senior Associate AD for Peak Performance; Spencer Brown, Director of Strength & Conditioning; Stephen Gonzalez, Assistant AD for Leadership & Mental Performance; and Jennifer Chuks, Associate AD for Varsity Sports & Careers. They provided updates on the Dartmouth Peak Performance (DP2) program and how they have adapted to COVID-19 to provide

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remote services for Dartmouth student-athletes. The second panel consisted of student-athletes. The group of panelists were Albie Austin '20, Men's Lacrosse; Cha'Mia Rothwell '20, Women's Track & Field; Ohad Yahalom '22, Men's Soccer; and Katie Douglas '22, Women's Basketball. They provided insight into the student-athlete experience that was cut short due to COVID-19.

At the end of the meeting, Cep shared a short video presentation before Cherie and Ernie provided brief remarks about the impending vote before adjourning the group to join the larger session starting at noon.

Enrollment and Admissions Committee

Nicole Moser '89, Chair of the Enrollment and Admissions Committee, welcomed and thanked the attendees, praising her amazing committee liaison, Meg Lysy '99, her excellent Vice Chair, Colleen Haskell '94, and the always erudite and engaging Lee Coffin '89a, Vice Provost for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid. Nicole shared her own COVID-19 experiences and asked attendees if they had any experiences they wanted to share. Nestor Paz-Galindo spoke in particular about the impacts of Covid-19 on international students.

Lee Coffin updated the group on the final statistics from the 2019-2020 admissions cycle. The 2019-2020 applicant pool was the third largest in Dartmouth's history, and it was the third year in a row with more than 20,000 applicants. It was also the third year that the admission rate was under ten percent, and that the yield rate was over sixty percent. There was a record enrollment of international applicants and a record for both first generation and low-income student enrollment. In addition to increased numbers abroad, there was a record yield in many areas of the US, including Texas, California and Florida. A discussion followed encompassing gap years, postponements, standardized testing, recruited athletes, and financial aid, focusing on challenges presented by the global pandemic. Ali Duke, Assistant Director of Admissions, provided an overview of the 55 virtual admitted student events that were held in April. Vice Provost Coffin explained the great response from Generation Z to Dartmouth Admissions digital outreach efforts.

The meeting was concluded with an introduction of the new committee Vice Chair, Alexandra Barnett '07. The committee thanked Nicole Moser for her admirable leadership and the care that she took to connect members of the committee, share admissions updates with the rest of Council, and make progress on the committee's ASE audit and initial discussions around mentorship for students upon graduation.

Professional Development Committee

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The meeting opened with a greeting from outgoing Chair, Walter Foster '83, who welcomed the group to our first Zoom meeting of the PDC. After the greeting, the Chair asked if each member of the committee would give a brief update on how they are doing personally during these trying times. Next, Walter Palmer '90, Director of Dartmouth for Life, gave an update on the unit's activities, describing how the transition was made from almost entirely live-events to 100% remote/digital over the span of 2-3 weeks in March. The group then divided into three working groups with their chairs leading discussion: Jen Bordeau '06 for the Future of Work; Pablo Stern '01 TH '01 for Personas/LinkedIn; and Mary Brown '79 for FYSEP Mentorship/Mock Interviews. Kalina Newmark '11 will become Chair of the FYSEP Mentorship/Mock Interview working group after Mary Brown rolls off this spring. Jonathan Weatherly '90 was approved, by acclamation, as vice-chair for 2020-2021.