



Alumni Liaison Committee

2019–2020 Annual Report to the Dartmouth College Board of Trustees

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Introduction

Learning Expands Great Souls

—NAMIBIAN PROVERB

For the past 13 years, the Alumni Liaison Committee (ALC) has provided a vibrant communication channel to discover and communicate what holds space in the minds and hearts of Dartmouth alumni. Through the gathering, synthesizing, and transmission of this sentiment to key stakeholders including the Board of Trustees, senior leadership, and the alumni body writ large, the ALC continues to serve a crucial role in capturing, assembling, and conveying alumni sentiment.

As we began the academic year celebrating Dartmouth's 250th anniversary and the ongoing efforts and success of The Call to Lead campaign, we could not have known our 251st year would usher in seismic, structural shifts throughout the world, including right here in Hanover. As this report goes to press our country is grappling with, among other social issues, a global health crisis that has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives both in the United States and internationally, a resulting economic crisis, and a national dialogue and reckoning on racial inequality and social justice.

Dartmouth has not been immune to this societal reorientation, and has had to wrestle with decisions about virtual instruction, the safe reopening of campus, the removal of racist iconography, the elimination of athletic teams, and how best to most effectively address and dismantle structural racism.

Amid these crosscurrents, alumni sentiment, therefore, cannot and should not be read in a vacuum. Rather it provides a window into how alumni are grappling with both the College's response to, and their own experience of, this pivotal moment in history. Top-of-mind topics for alumni correspondence in recent months included the impact and response to COVID-19, the Black Lives Matter movement, the removal of the Baker Tower weathervane, and the composition of the incoming class.

Introduction *continued*

In the pages that follow, the members of the Alumni Liaison Committee provide headlines, summaries, and selected quotes that offer a high-resolution snapshot of correspondence received. One goal of the Alumni Liaison Committee over the past 12 months was to expand our collection of alumni sentiment beyond the channel that remains the most popular among alumni overall—emails sent to the Council and its councilors—to include social media and other forms of communication among alumni. The committee and the Council continue to experiment in ways that are respectful of the confidential conversations that, for example, take place within Facebook groups and other platforms. Over the coming years, I look forward to the committee expanding its role as a listening post to new, digital frontiers.

Through the bold leadership of Council President Alec Casey '88, the Alumni Council held its first virtual meeting this past spring with a record-breaking attendance including 72 former councilors. At this meeting, current alumni councilors, in recognition of the changing demographics and dynamics of the alumni body, voted to adjust both the membership structure and standing committees of the Council. You can read more about this in the appendices.

Finally, as this report went to print, the ALC noticed a significant uptick in alumni sentiment around the elimination of five sports teams and the Black Lives Matter movement. With a desire to remain a channel of timely communication, the committee is already at work on a snapshot report following up on these topics to be presented to the Board of Trustees during the Fall term.

The names of the committee members that appear below are immensely dedicated Dartmouth volunteers. It has been my true pleasure to labor alongside these members of the 2019-2020 ALC. Thank you cannot begin to express my gratitude to them or the superstar team in Alumni Relations—my classmate and friend Cheryl Bascomb '82, Liz Nunez, Meg Ramsden '87, and Amberlee Barbagallo. Thank you also to the members of the Board of Trustees Advancement Committee, especially outgoing Chair David Hodgson '78 for prioritizing alumni voices. Thank you.

Yours for One Dartmouth,
Adrienne (Tee) Lotson, Ph.D. '82
Chair, Alumni Liaison Committee, 2019-2020

Alumni Liaison Committee Membership



Adrienne "Tee" Lotson '82
Chair



**Luke
Antal '07**



**Alec
Casey '88**



**Rachel Bogardus
Drew '98**



**Whitney
Flynn '07 TU'16**



**Louisa
Guthrie '79**



**Julie Park
Hubble '87**



**Kalina
Newmark '11**



**Melanie
Pastuck '11**



**Rich
Stoddart '85**



**Monique Burns
Thompson '88**

Correspondence Themes and Topics



COVID-19: Impact and Consequences

The ALC received a total of 103 emails relating to COVID-19 between March 2020 and early July. The comments, opinions, and suggestions concerning the impact of the virus on Dartmouth are divided into separate sub-categories detailed below. Communication came from a wide variety of classes with alumni from the decade of the '80s amounting to the highest participation at 23%, followed by the '70s, the '60s, and the '90s.

In terms of sentiment, of the 103 emails, 52% were neither negative nor positive—either simply looking for further information or, in many cases, offering suggestions on how to help students, faculty, and alumni get through this challenging period. 31% of the emails expressed negative opinions while 17% reflected positive opinions.

Within the topic of COVID-19, there were several themes. The following represent sentiment from the areas of most comment:

Financial Issues

The comments and questions in this category considered the pandemic's impact on Dartmouth's financials, as well as financial aid, the cost of tuition, and how to support students during this period. Of the ten emails that were negative, five of them related to the cost of tuition: "I am very disappointed that Dartmouth has chosen to charge its students full tuition (excluding room and board) during a period where almost none of the College's core benefits are being delivered." A few other negative comments related to government funding: "The College has been pretty mum on the CARES Act funding that it was allocated. I haven't seen any statement by President Hanlon either supporting or commenting on the \$3+ million that the college was set to receive..." with other comments strongly urging the school not to accept the funds.

Communication

50% of this category was negative mostly asking for improved and timelier communication: "I think that Dartmouth is playing its cards very close to the vest, and that is not confidence inspiring....I must assume the college has data, but where is it?In this time of uncertainty we need clarity and transparency." The remaining 50% sought information or had a suggestion: "There are many informative web lectures/speakers happening throughout various Dartmouth silos illustrating the work alums are doing on the frontline. It would be nice if these were more widely publicized."

Student Support

For the most part, this category was positive and/or neutral, suggesting many ways to support Dartmouth students as well as alums with young children: "Have they considered some sort of networking to allow folks to volunteer to help with their area of expertise for parents doing homeschooling?...I know I would be thrilled to help with math/science/engineering." The negative comments related to the plan for the fall term: "The Big Green needs to be a big advocate of going back to school, in the tradition(al) sense, this fall... especially knowing that the Ivy League and its response will set the gold standard for so many schools..."

Strategy for the Future

This category was primarily composed of alumni looking for information about Dartmouth's plans considering the substantial impact on Dartmouth's financial situation and the overall life of the College: "How does a shock like this to Dartmouth—and higher education—impact the College's vision and strategies for near-term expenditures and long-term structural changes?" As the College pivots and continues to adjust plans for 2020-2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, alumni also reached out to express their thanks for the clear updates from the College on plans to move forward. And, alumni wrote in to express their concerns for the financial state of the College during this challenging time.

However, a minority of those who reached out were disappointed, and had pointed concerns. These alumni were critical of Dartmouth's approach to soliciting feedback from the Hanover and Upper Valley community, the decision to discontinue varsity sports for the spring and fall 2020 seasons due to the pandemic, and how that will affect the mental health and well-being of the College's student athletes, and the decision to not adjust or shift costs for students based on whether they were learning on-campus or virtually. Additionally, alumni wondered what the plans will be for Reunions going forward.

"I'd be interested if you can learn anything about what other classes may be doing (either through use of class dues or for free) to support classmates during the pandemic."

Class of 1992

Dartmouth Administration

Most of the emails in this category were negative—questioning certain decisions made: "It is quite a challenging time for all and I greatly appreciate the administration's hard work, but all their efforts have occurred behind closed doors...(they) do not elaborate on the different options that have been considered nor do they seek any input from the community..." as well as questioning when Dartmouth will take on a true leadership role: "As a parent of a '23 and an alumni, I want to hear something from the Administration more similar to the views shared recently by the President of Brown... Dartmouth does not seem to be leading from the front on this issue as is our fellow Ivy League institution."

Alumni Ideas and Support

This is a very positive area with many suggestions ranging from how alumni can gather in this Zoom-enabled world to how the College could make some additional revenue by allowing alumni to audit virtual courses. "I'd be interested if you can learn anything about what other classes may be doing (either through use of class dues or for free) to support classmates during the pandemic."

The Golf Course

Three out of four of the emails were negative and very disappointed about the closure of the golf course due to the pandemic: "...it'd be hard to overstate the disappointment many across the community—golfers and non—feel about HCC not opening... the course is a centroid of the community for all ages and walks of life... Golf is one of the few things allowed to happen in this COVID-19 world."

A handful of messages thanked the administration and the Alumni Council for what it is doing to keep alumni informed.



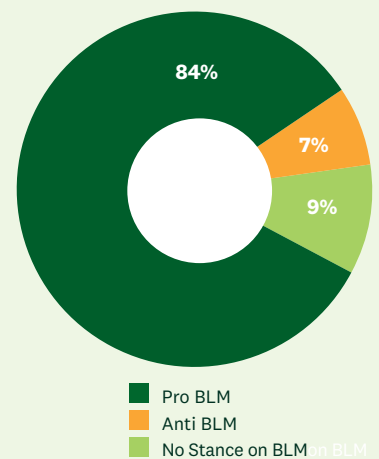
Black Lives Matter: Who Matters at Dartmouth

The Alumni Council received 45 messages regarding Black Lives Matter within 25 days in the month of June 2020. Sparked by the murder on May 25 of George Floyd by Minneapolis policeman Derek Chauvin, protests on racial equity, institutional racism, and police brutality circled the globe in the midst of the pandemic. Correspondence received in those 25 days represented a broad spectrum of alumni sentiment, representing 32 individuals, four class executive committees, four affinity groups and five regional clubs. Additional correspondence continued throughout the summer of 2020.

Overwhelmingly, the correspondence was in support of the Black Lives Matter movement, and either praised or condemned Dartmouth's response to the crisis. Of the 45 messages received, 38 supported BLM.

Across the month of June, alumni expressed disappointment in what they perceived to be an inadequate response from Dartmouth's administration. There are ten separate messages regarding "tone deaf emails" or a lack of a public stance by the Board of Trustees or the Alumni Council.

CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING
BLACK LIVES MATTER



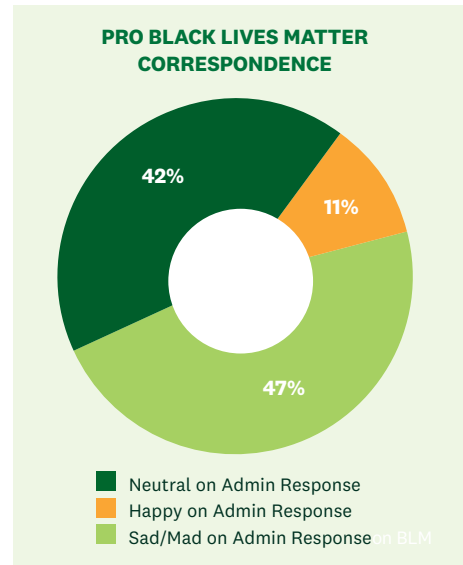
"I have been extremely disappointed over the past week to see no statement from the Board of Trustees, nor the Alumni Council, nor the office of Alumni Relations regarding support for the Black community at Dartmouth and current/future efforts to dismantle racist structures in our college." Class of 2018

To illustrate this issue, an alum from the Class of '05 cited that “The (Dartmouth) home page today features the organic farm, while our peer institutions have homepages focusing on racial justice.”

One writer, whose work experience is in executive communications, commented that letters were received from multiple organizational leaders and institutions during this time. “I am writing because Dartmouth’s version of this email is an absolute disgrace... President Hanlon’s words are not read in a vacuum but instead in comparison to those of other leaders—other leaders who, by the clarity of their communication, command increasingly greater respect.”

Consistently found among communications sent by affiliated groups, regional clubs, and classes to their memberships was the affirmation that Black Lives Matter, with support for those demanding racial justice. From the Hill Winds Society: “As a predominantly white school with an overwhelmingly white alumni body, Dartmouth cannot move forward without addressing its complicity in racist structures. The Hill Winds Society recognizes that the onus is on non-POC to self-educate oneself on racism and structural inequality so that we can be better allies to the marginalized members of our community. Being ‘not racist’ isn’t good enough; if anything, that’s not even the baseline. Instead, everyone with privilege must be actively anti-racist.” One submission called attention to two Instagram accounts: Black Ivy Stories and Black@Dartmouth, which contain distressing personal anecdotes of racism at Dartmouth.

The 38 letters which were supportive of the BLM Movement were categorized based on their opinion of the Administration’s response to the crisis.



*The Dartmouth Club of the Midwest, which includes Minneapolis where the protests began, submitted a thorough and heartfelt letter to her constituents, beginning with the admission that “whatever we thought of our efforts before, they were not enough... We must do better.” Their call to action, informed by their own Black members of the Dartmouth Club of the Midwest, included specific actions to **listen, learn, advocate for change, donate, and challenge your workplace.***

The focus on action was constructively repeated by other individuals and groups, including twelve distinct correspondences calling for or announcing local resources and programming directed at institutional racism and racial equity. There were three individuals who recommended anti-racist education to be a core part of Dartmouth curriculum.

Gratitude was expressed to Cheryl Bascomb, vice president for Alumni Relations, whose email to the alumni body was sent out on June 4, 2020, forwarding President Hanlon’s letter. Her genuine heartache and pledge to find solutions was noted by nine separate individuals. 27 letters were received in the 6 days following her email. From a member of the Class of ’73: “Thank you, Cheryl, for being a consistently positive, constructive, and humble voice when all three are really needed.”



Baker Tower Weathervane: The Power of Iconography

Following the June 15, 2020 announcement on the removal of the Baker Library weathervane, the ALC received some strong, immediate reactions from dozens of alumni, most of them (71%) in disagreement with the decision. Notably, three-quarters of these responses came from graduates of classes in the 1950's and 1960's, and all but three were from classes pre-1986; several of these appear to have come from email conversations occurring within the classes of 1958, 1966, and 1968.

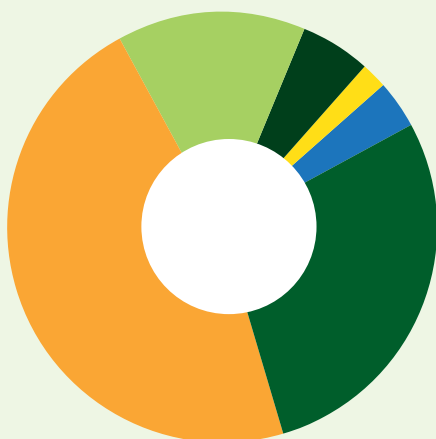
Among the negative responses, alumni generally felt the removal of the weathervane was a misguided attempt to appease “a noisy minority” of the College community. Several felt the weathervane should stay as “a symbol of the College’s heritage and founding” and current commitment to educating Native American students. A handful pledged to reconsider or end their financial giving to Dartmouth over this decision.

The smaller number of positive reactions (6) were less detailed, but included opinions ranging from “makes total sense” to “much ado about nothing.” Other messages posed questions about the process by which Dartmouth arrived at this decision, how a replacement weathervane would be chosen, and the College’s future plans for the weathervane itself, including a few offers to purchase it.

“If the weathervane interferes with [Native American students’]... acceptance, success and comfort at Dartmouth, it should be replaced with something more appropriate.” Class of 1958

Finally, a few concerned alumni worried about what other College traditions and symbols might also be at risk of reconsideration, with one alumnus from the Class of 1968 expressing ambivalence about the weathervane so long as “we can still yell, “to hell with Harvard” like our daddies used to do!”

WEATHERVANE CORRESPONDENCE BY CLASS YEAR



	Class Year	Number of Messages
	1950s	16
	1960s	26
	1970s	8
	1980s	3
	Other Alumni	1
	Non-Alumni	2

Student Life: Making Dartmouth Home

There were 103 messages attributed to the category of Student Life. The range of topics covered is vast, including everything from student access to mental health support and leadership training to policies about scooters on campus. Four topics stood out in both their frequency and their consistent clarity of message.

Residential Housing System

There are 12 messages on the topic of the current restrictions associated with the residential housing system on campus. All of these came from alum who deeply love the College (they often open with all the family members past and present who are members of the Dartmouth community), but they indicate “my kids have lived through a horrid experience” with the current housing system. Topping the list of issues are student’s inability to live with friends they make on campus outside of their assigned house. Two alumni noted: “Its articulated goal is to strengthen social ties so that the D-Plan is less disruptive to friendships. Its unstated goal is surely to weaken the Greek system. In fact, now real friendships are weakened because people cannot room with their friends!!! And I would argue that the Greek system is strengthened because all of these people who can’t room with friends go running to fraternities and sororities so that they have some hope of bonding/living with actual friends.”

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals)/ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement)

Five alumni corresponded about the need for additional services and supports for undocumented/DACA students; specifically for advisory, mental health, and legal support.

Data Reporting around Moving Dartmouth Forward Metrics

Four messages focused on the rate of reported rape on campus and the perceived lack of follow through by campus administration on the consistent tracking and reporting of the MDF metrics for the whole community.

Quality of Dorms

Three alumni wrote to discuss the need for the historic dorms on campus to be updated. They noted “it felt like almost nothing (carpet, woodwork, paint, lighting, bathrooms) had seen much updating since we graduated” and creates a significant disparity between those living in the newer facilities versus those in the historic buildings.

Administration

The ALC received 87 emails related to administrative policy and operations. The dominant issue on policy centered around how Dartmouth was addressing the impact of climate change. As in past years, there were numerous calls for Dartmouth to divest from fossil fuel investments and take a larger leadership role in addressing climate change. Alumni emails cited the science showing the impact fossil fuel usage has on the environment, the poor long term returns these companies offer, and the hypocrisy of supporting this industry given the College’s focus on sustainability. There were also more specific concerns about the proposed biomass power plant, the College’s commitment to zero carbon emissions, and its plans for use of renewable energy sources. Questions about operations centered around continually rising administrative costs (“bloat”) as well as overall tuition fees. Additionally, there were emails about the nature of various campus projects, including the golf course, the Nordic ski park, Ledyard, and future dorm sites.

Dartmouth must take meaningful action to address the climate crisis by divesting the endowment from fossil fuel investments. Fossil fuels are not a good long-term investment for the College, and actively harm the Dartmouth community.
Class of 2005

Academics

Of the 42 alumni who shared an opinion or question about Academics, the average class year was 1971. Of those, all but four were from alumni of the year 1981 and prior, and there were zero comments from graduates in the last 15 years. While it appears as though this sentiment may not be representative of every alumnus/a, especially younger alumni, from what we did hear, two themes stood out.

First, there was a concern from ten alumni, mainly from the 1960's, that the College is not supporting, and is perhaps suppressing, the concept and application of free speech within its student body and faculty. Several alumni raised the question of whether Dartmouth would be joining the other institutions who have committed to the Chicago Principles, a set of guiding principles intended to demonstrate a commitment to freedom of speech and freedom of expression on college campuses.

“Dartmouth has the ability... to be a true liberal arts leader. Both students and faculty must learn to accept that others who reach different conclusions based on different experiences, assumptions, and facts are not bad people. They are to be welcomed, nurtured, and accepted. Or am I wrong?” Class of 1954

Second, there was a consistent sentiment shared by alumni to see Dartmouth continue to climb in the College rankings, led by its continued commitment to focus on undergraduate education. “With all of the specific skills that humans need to help them make a contribution to the world in this time, I hope Dartmouth can continue to help students see the world horizontally, across disciplines, and across cultures. At least for me, it made a big difference in helping me make a difference.”

There were also several comments encouraging the College to continue its great work with the Magnuson Center for Entrepreneurship and to consider making online courses available to alumni.

Admissions

This year saw a marked decline in alumni inquiries about Admissions (35) as other new emerging topics became front and center. Of the individuals who wrote in about Admissions, the dominant themes surrounded the racial, socio-economic status, and citizenship of the admitted class. Overall, a third of the messages were related to one of these themes.

Alumni wrote to express their opinions that lower-income applicants were not admitted at proportional rates, and their concerns that applicants from private schools and high income brackets receive admission at higher rates. The messages they shared varied widely in tone.

“I was a first-generation student from a middle-middle class family without much education or money, and Dartmouth was a gateway for kids like me... I’m not sure it serves that purpose any longer. My own legacy grant to the College will be dedicated in part to helping first generation students like me once they are accepted by the College. But I don’t know how to help increase their numbers in the first place.” Class of 1968

A member of the Class of 1977 shared, “It seems to imply that if you come from a family in the top 1% you have a 50X greater chance of attending (which I suppose is different than being admitted) than if you come from a family in the bottom 50%. Can this reflect merit?”

Five alumni wrote in to offer their perspectives on legacy admissions, split both in favor of keeping legacy status as a factor in applications, and those believing it should be removed. Those who advocated for a change in legacy admissions policy linked many of their arguments to privilege, status, and financial access to resources—tying in with the comments directly related to socioeconomic status and race referred to earlier.

Several pieces of correspondence served as a critique of how admissions decisions are made as related to geographic and racial diversity. A few other messages addressed enrollment and class size, the move to an SAT optional format for the 2020-2021 admissions cycle, and the impact of alumni interviewing.

Sexual Misconduct

On the topic of sexual misconduct at the College, many alumni asked if sexual harassment and assault training was mandatory.

“My understanding is that this is required for every college/university receiving federal funds. Has there been discussion... about the type of training Dartmouth is giving its students, and has there been any changes since the settlement of the lawsuit?” Class of 1976

Several alumni also asked for updates about the class action lawsuit and cited concerns over an increase in reported rapes on campus year over year. Anguish and disappointment came through in the writing of several of the comments, especially those from alumni who had helped peers and colleagues who experienced misconduct firsthand.

Alumni Relations

We continue to see great engagement from alumni concerning topics from Alumni Relations—with nearly 50 responses received. Of these responses, three key areas emerged including increased representation for particular classes and groups on Alumni Council, the importance of connecting virtually during these challenging times, and lastly building upon and improving this year’s new VOX conference.

Representation on Alumni Council

There were reactions to changes in Alumni Council representation. The comments included support for additional representation for classes past their 60th reunion and two new seats for the Women of Dartmouth. One writer was disappointed that the Dartmouth Lawyers Association was not granted representation.

Virtual Connection

Many alums have found ways to virtually connect and stay in touch with fellow classes and groups. Alums have encouraged Dartmouth to continue to provide virtual forums to allow for more engagement with the College.

“...We ‘63s have a strong tradition of getting together for mini-reunions often. Of course, all have been cancelled. I got the idea to use the College’s Zoom account to set up virtual mini reunions. Classmates who were disappointed not to be able to see friends again this year and classmates who just needed to have some good company have been delighted, and all have asked, “Can we do this again soon?” I recommend it to other classes. It is mentally healthy, safe and fun, and keeps Dartmouth top of mind...” Class of 1963

First-ever Volunteer Conference

From September 20–21, 2019, Dartmouth alumni volunteers from classes, clubs, groups, and Women of Dartmouth gathered on campus for the inaugural VOX Conference, an inspiring weekend of connection and inspiration. Attendees collaborated across class, club, and group organizations, drilled down on strategy, and celebrated Dartmouth’s tradition of service and volunteerism. Attendees provided feedback.

General Response

Nearly 50 notes of appreciation thanking our Dartmouth volunteers for their service also made their way to the top of alumni sentiments.

Other Correspondence

In addition to the themes above, a small number of emails were received on the following topics.

The Call to Lead Campaign

The three comments received related to The Call to Lead covered these topics: inquiry about investment in faculty and staff development, particularly towards diversity, equity, and inclusion training; a question about the split of funding for undergraduate vs. graduate programs and initiatives; and a general question about what projects would be funded.

Governance

Governance-related comments focused on the latest Alumni Council nominated slate of candidates for the Board of Trustees, half conveying enthusiastic support of the candidates and half expressing disdain for the candidates and the process itself. Of the latter remarks, criticism centered around a process writers said limits alumni input and doesn't present adequate choice, as well as the perceived lack of diversity of opinion among candidates.

Finally, we received two additional requests to establish a Board seat dedicated to a member of the Native American alumni body, in honor of the College's legacy and commitment to this community.

Athletics

The small number of comments about athletics expressed concerns with the brain health risks posed to student athletes on the football team, in addition to other contact sports. That Dartmouth's mission to educate future leaders is undermined by the long-term impacts of head injuries was a sentiment shared by several alumni.

"If the Council can come up with three qualified nominees, then surely it can come up with, say, worthy five nominees and, thereby, give Dartmouth alumni some choice in the process of selecting College Trustees... Until I have some choice, however, I respectfully decline to invest my time and attention in reviewing and evaluating nominees' credentials for such an important post while being, in the end, merely a rubber stamp." Class of 1964

"I have no interest in watching or supporting high school, college and certainly not professional football. None of my grandchildren will play football...their parents' decision, not mine." Class of 1962

Note: the comment period reflected in this report is prior to the July 9th, 2020 announcement about the College's decision to cut five varsity sports teams, which generated significant alumni response.

Appendices

The Alumni Council meets twice annually, typically in Hanover. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 220th meeting in May was held virtually over Zoom.

In support of the Council mission to sustain a fully informed, representative, and engaged exchange of information and sentiment between alumni and their College, and to enhance and inspire alumni involvement that furthers the mission of the College, the Council President communicates to alumni after each meeting. The messages below were written by Alumni Council President C. Alec Casey '88 and sent via email to all Dartmouth alumni.

APPENDIX 1

Message to all alumni from Alumni Council President – Fall 2019

I'm happy to report we recently had a very successful and enlightening meeting of the Dartmouth Alumni Council in Hanover. The theme of the meeting was "Adventuresome Spirit." It refers to the sensibility that embraces the unknown; invites fearlessness and teamwork; and radiates tenacity, curiosity, and life-changing ideas. The presentations we heard in Hanover and the Dartmouth adventures that many of you shared with the Council in the weeks leading up to the meeting reinforced that these traits remain a key part of the Dartmouth DNA—and help our small college make an outsized mark on the world, while having some fun along the way.

Sharing Your Feedback

Alumni Councilors serve as a link between Dartmouth and alumni. We're here to gather your questions and ideas and to communicate them to the College all year round and as things come up. We'll also be communicating with you when there is news to share. As we headed into the Council's 219th meeting, topics on your minds included Dartmouth's strategic direction, the College's commitment to climate issues and sustainability, and the nature of the student experience. While in Hanover, Councilors shared your views and questions with President Hanlon, Chair of the Board of Trustees Laurel Richie '81, and other Dartmouth leaders. If you're curious about who represents you on the Council, please visit the Councilor Directory.

Meeting Highlights

- The Council fulfilled one of its most important responsibilities by nominating three alumni to serve on the Board of Trustees. They are Susan M. Finegan '85, Odette A. Harris '91, and Gregg R. Lemkau '91. Read more about the candidate and the process at voxthevote.com.

- President Hanlon addressed the Council and shared two “north stars” for Dartmouth: academic excellence and a safe, inclusive campus. He described progress made towards these goals, and I was pleased and proud to learn that some key indicators of success—including a more competitive admissions yield, increased research activity, and decreased self-reported alcohol use by students—are all on positive trajectories. Both President Hanlon and Laurel Richie affirmed Dartmouth’s commitment to be, at its core, the best liberal arts college.
- Lee Coffin, vice provost for enrollment and dean of admissions and financial aid, discussed very positive trends in Dartmouth admissions: rising applications, higher selectivity, and greater yield. Lee shared some of the challenges facing admissions practices in higher education in the wake of the recent Harvard lawsuit and “varsity blues” scandal, and reaffirmed to the Council his commitment to the integrity of Dartmouth’s process.
- The Stretch—Dartmouth’s earth sciences off-campus program—takes 22 undergraduates, six professors, and six graduate students into the field on a geological tour of the American West and has been doing so for more than 50 years. The Council met with students who participated in this program and with professors Carl Renshaw, Ed Meyer, and Marisa Palucis to learn more about why this kind of experience matters for Dartmouth and how it takes learning to the next level for all of its participants. It made me wish I could go back in time and hop in the van with them to tour glaciers and national parks.
- We learned that exciting changes are in store for Dartmouth’s libraries. Baker and Berry libraries will be renovated to ensure that student and faculty learning and research are connected with the breadth and depth of Dartmouth’s collections in meaningful ways. The changes will preserve what we know and love

about these spaces while making them more open, collaborative, and conducive to interdisciplinarity and new ways of working.

- Vice President for Institutional Initiatives Josh Keniston and Director of Sustainability Rosi Kerr ’97 shared with us their vision for a greener future for Dartmouth. They discussed recent efforts to evolve the methods Dartmouth uses for energy generation as well as the goal of converting from steam to hot water heating. Just before the Council arrived, Dartmouth announced that it is widening its analysis of options to power the campus as part of progress on the Dartmouth Green Energy Project, which is aimed at improving energy resiliency, sustainability, and efficiency. In 2017, Dartmouth adopted goals of 50% renewable fuel by 2025 and 100% by 2050. Although we are only a few years in, Dartmouth is on track to achieve these goals.

Give a Rouse

The Council honored James W. Wooster III ’59 Th’60, Veree Hawkins Brown ’93, and Russell E. Wolff ’89 Tu’94 with the Dartmouth Alumni Award and Kyle J. Polite ’05 and Nathan L. Bruschi ’10 with the Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award. Read more about their extraordinary service to Dartmouth and watch videos about the winners.

During our meeting, Vice President for Alumni Relations Cheryl Bascomb ’82 shared the great news that we are 97% of the way towards the 250,000-hour goal for The Call to Serve. This initiative challenges our community to contribute 250,000 hours of service in honor of Dartmouth’s 250 years and seeks to call attention to the impact Dartmouth alumni, faculty, students, and staff have on the world. Please help us reach our goal by logging your volunteer service hours on The Call to Serve site.

Thanks for reading this summary. We are here to hear you and to share your sentiments with Dartmouth's leadership, so please be in touch anytime. If you'd like a more thorough summary of the Council meeting, please read the minutes and view photos, or reach out to your Councilors.

APPENDIX 2

Message to all alumni from Alumni Council President – Spring 2020

Last Friday, the Dartmouth Alumni Council held its first virtual meeting in its 107-year history. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we gathered via Zoom with campus leaders and shared questions and feedback we've heard from alumni over the past few months. It was one of our best attended meetings ever with over 200 current and former councilors calling in. Although we missed being together, it was a surprisingly effective opportunity to "see" each other and celebrate our connections. If there is a silver lining to this global crisis, it has been the opportunity to find ways to pause and reconnect with Dartmouth classmates, colleagues, and friends. The Dartmouth community is more important now than ever.

There were several outcomes of the meeting I'd like to share with you:

Responding to Extraordinary Circumstances

In conversations with campus leaders and members of the Board of Trustees, the Council heard examples of how Dartmouth has responded swiftly to the pandemic while staying true to its mission. Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Elizabeth Smith described the extraordinary commitment of the faculty in converting 93% of the courses (674 offerings in total) that would have been held on campus to virtual. That work is complemented by a rapid pivot in student affairs to move all support services online. Dean of the College Kathryn Lively shared that student governance is alive and well, as is sense

of community as Undergraduate Advisors are holding virtual floor meetings and house communities have organized virtual gatherings, from faculty speakers to cooking classes. Vice Provost for Enrollment and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Lee Coffin offered good news that the class of 2024 is strong and yield rates excellent, but also painted a picture of the steep increase in need for financial support that students are experiencing due to the pandemic. Dartmouth continues to look ahead and plan proactively for the 2020–2021 academic year, and Board Chair Laurel Richie '81 commented that the Board is keeping a keen eye on what can be done to consistently improve and enhance the experience that makes Dartmouth so distinctive.

A Presidential Call to Action of Historic Proportions

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, President Hanlon shared with the Council his belief that this is Dartmouth's leadership moment. The Alumni Council has supported Dartmouth at its most challenging times: the Dartmouth Hall fire, two world wars, the Great Depression, to name a few. Now is the time for the Council to step forward again and lead. Our mission is to ensure that our next generation of young people are ready to tackle the next great challenges.

President Hanlon pledged to strengthen efforts to make a Dartmouth education accessible and prepare the next generation of leaders. He outlined for the Council the economic toll of recent months and the dramatic increased need for student support as our Dartmouth families are impacted by changing circumstances. Citing the College's unwavering commitment to both need blind admissions and our desire to meet the full demonstrated need of each student, he urged the Council to assist our students by mobilizing the global alumni community on two urgent fronts: employment and internship opportunities for current students and, for those who are able, to provide financial support to student scholarship

and financial aid. He announced the creation of a Presidential Commission for Financial Aid as well as a bold plan to respond to the surge in need with a plan for undergraduate financial aid. And he challenged alumni to help in any way they can.

Embracing the Class of 2020

President Hanlon also issued another challenge to alumni: we must find ways to lift up the Class of '20. They will finish their Dartmouth journey missing their senior spring and Commencement, and they are entering a world where the health of our communities is in danger and the economy is reeling. This cause was also supported by members of the Board of Trustees who joined our meeting. The Council expressed enthusiasm and support for the '20s, and I hope you will consider joining us. An immediate way you can do so is by joining the Dartmouth Career Support Network 2020. Through this effort, we hope to source 50 (or more) job opportunities for the '20s by June 12 and to connect them with alumni expertise via a new LinkedIn group.

Evolving the Alumni Council

During the Alumni Council meeting, we voted to approve several changes to the composition and committee structure of the Council to ensure that we maximize our mission, function effectively, and have access to alumni sentiment from all corners of the alumni body. Founded in 1913, the Council's shape and size have evolved over the years and were last changed in 2007–2008. The newest changes are designed to create a more representative structure that will allow us to sustain an engaged exchange between alumni and Dartmouth and to inspire alumni engagement. The recommendations were developed over the past year by two task forces. I encourage you to read their report [here](#).

If you'd like more information about the Alumni Council meeting, please read the meeting minutes and share comments and questions with your Council rep or the Council's Alumni Liaison Committee.

This will be my last communication as Alumni Council president. I'm honored to pass the gavel to Rachel Bogardus Drew '98 who will serve in this role in 2020–2021. During last week's meeting, the Council elected Laurie Lewis Shapiro '95 to the role of president-elect. It's been my pleasure to serve Dartmouth and its alumni in this role.



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- Page 4, COVID-19 by Rob Strong
- Page 7, Support of Black Lives Matter by Robert Gill
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