
Trustees to End Greek System 'As We Know It'

Social and residential life initiative will end 158 years of single-sex Greek life at Dartmouth

By Jacob T. Elberg, Senior Editor

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In what will mark the most significant change at Dartmouth College since coeducation, the Board of Trustees and College President James Wright announced yesterday a plan which will put an end to the single-sex fraternity and sorority system which has existed at the College for more than 150 years.

Although it is unclear at this point what the new system will look like, Wright told The Dartmouth yesterday the Trustees' decision will mean an end to the Greek system "as we know it."

The Board -- which yesterday released a revolutionary list of five principles aimed at overhauling residential and social life at the College -- will look for input from the community before deciding on a new social system "that's not built on single-sex houses."

Wright said both he and the Trustees are prepared to weather the student and alumni opposition they expect will result from the decision, which will change the face of social and residential life on a campus where more than 35 percent of undergraduates are members of the 25 single-sex fraternities and sororities.

"This is not a referendum on these things," Wright said. "We are committed to doing this."

Wright said he thinks the decision on the design of the new system will be made early in fall or winter of the upcoming year, and said although it is not yet clear whether Greek houses will be able to hold traditional rush next fall, "as you get out two years and three years there's less and less likelihood of that."

That means members of the Class of 2001, who joined Greek houses this year, are unlikely to be participating in a traditional rush process during their senior year.

In addition to a call for a social system which is "substantially coeducational and provide[s] opportunities for greater interaction among all Dartmouth students," the Trustees said they will seek significant changes to the College's residential system and improvement of campus social space when they released their statement of "five principles that will characterize the future residential and social life of students at the College."

The Trustees are prepared to spend "tens of millions of dollars" to finance the social and residential life changes, according to Wright, who said the College will hope to purchase and refurbish the houses of the Greek organizations who currently live in privately-owned buildings.

"The Trustees are giving students the opportunity to reimagine social life and residential life at the College," Wright said. "And the Trustees are prepared to invest money to meet [their] aspirations."

Wright, who is known for his interest in and knowledge of the College's history, said the Trustees' social and

residential life initiative will be the biggest change the College has seen since the Trustees voted to admit women in November of 1971.

"[Coeducation] would be the only thing that's happened here that probably would exceed this in terms of effecting the quality of the student experience at Dartmouth," Wright said. "And there definitely is no doubt in my mind that eight or 10 years from now the quality of the student experience as a result of these things will be far stronger than it is today."

Wright remarked that the current fraternity and sorority system is not one of inclusion -- making a dramatic initiative such as this one necessary.

"By definition, a fraternity or a sorority is not inclusive of all members of the community," Wright said. "Finally Dartmouth needs to become a place that's more whole, where the entire community can share more fully in the life of the community."

Wright declined to comment on what he envisions for the future of the College's social system, but said that despite the Trustees' call to eliminate "the abuse and unsafe use of alcohol," neither he nor the members of the Board have any inclinations of making Dartmouth a "dry campus."

"I wouldn't even fantasize how to make a dry campus here," he said.

Wright said the Trustees will look at community discussion about possible options for a new social system before making a final decision on exactly what the new system will entail, although he said "it's a view of the Trustees and a view that I share that it's time to move on to another and a different system."

A revolution in residential life

The Trustees' decision regarding the fraternity and sorority system is only one part of the revolutionary social and residential life initiative which is sure to dramatically change life at the College.

Wright said both he and the Board are willing to devote financial resources and fundraising efforts to make sure the money is available to fund whatever plans the Trustees decide on after considering the input of the community.

"I'm certainly prepared to go to work to raise money for these things," Wright said.

The five principles deal with a need for "greater choice and continuity in residential living and improved residential space," as well as "additional and improved social spaces controlled by students."

Wright said the Trustees are willing to put up money to construct new residence structures which could drastically alter the College's residential housing system. Additional apartments and town houses -- smaller scale complexes with social spaces built in -- are options the Trustees would like the community to consider, although he said the Board does not have "a firm decision on any physical plan."

Wright said both he and the Board would like to see a reduction in the number of students living in off-campus housing, and said the College may chose to build as many as 400 new beds in the hopes of bringing back to campus "about 200 students who would like to be on-campus." Social space & dining

The need for additional social space has become a much talked about issue at the College since the decision was made in January of 1994 to convert Webster Hall -- a medium-sized programming space which often hosted

concerts and other such events -- into the site of the new Rauner Special Collections Library.

But Wright said the Trustees may move on construction of a new space, or spaces, as early as fall of 1999, if by then they have decided on a plan of action.

The Trustees' statement that achievement of the five principles will require a change in "dining arrangements" means the College's dining system -- something that has gained little attention in recent years -- will become a topic of discussion in the upcoming months.

Wright said the Trustees are considering, among other things, the possibility of decentralizing dining on campus -- constructing two or three smaller dining halls on the campus in addition to current dining options -- although he said a system like that of Yale University, where each residence hall has an accompanying dining hall, is not likely.

"I'm not trying to model what we do on what Yale or Harvard or any other place does," Wright said. "I think what we're talking about is what a Dartmouth residential and social life system would look like. But I think decentralized dining could be a part of it."

Wright said decentralizing dining might make for more social space, as there would be more locations for "dinners with programming associated with them" that could also be "cleared out to provide social spaces on different parts of the campus in the evening."

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APPENDIX B

Greek Letter Organizations – May 6, 2010

	<u>Interfraternity Council</u>	Fraternity, Sorority or Coed	Membership Number	Affiliation National or Local	Physical Plant	Physical Plant Address
1	Alpha Chi Alpha	Fraternity	67	Local	College owned	13 Webster Ave
2	Alpha Delta	Fraternity	97	Local	Privately owned	9 East Wheelock
3	Beta Alpha Omega	Fraternity	52	Local	Privately owned	6 Webster Ave
4	Bones Gate	Fraternity	60	Local	Privately owned	10 Webster Ave
5	Chi Gamma Epsilon	Fraternity	58	Local	Privately owned	7 Webster Ave
6	Chi Heorot	Fraternity	79	Local	College owned	11 East Wheelock
7	Gamma Delta Chi	Fraternity	52	Local	Privately owned	30 North Main St
8	Kappa Kappa Kappa	Fraternity	72	Local	Privately owned	1 Webster Ave
9	Phi Delta Alpha	Fraternity	59	Local	Privately owned	5 Webster Ave *
10	Psi Upsilon	Fraternity	80	National	Privately owned	7 West Wheelock
11	Sigma Alpha Epsilon	Fraternity	71	National	Privately owned	38 College Street
12	Sigma Nu	Fraternity	47	National	Privately owned	12 Webster Ave
13	Sigma Phi Epsilon	Fraternity	100	National	Privately owned	11 Webster Ave
14	Theta Delta Chi	Fraternity	74	National	Privately owned	11 West Wheelock
15	Zeta Psi	Fraternity	42	National	Privately owned	8 Webster Ave

Total 1010

	<u>Panhellenic Council</u>					
1	Alpha Phi	Sorority	108	National	Residence Hall Floor	4th floor Hitchcock
2	Alpha Xi Delta	Sorority	138	National	College owned	17 East Wheelock
3	Delta Delta Delta	Sorority	136	National	College owned	1 Occum Ridge
4	Epsilon Kappa Theta	Sorority	93	Local	College owned	15 Webster Ave
5	Kappa Delta	Sorority	58	National	Residence Hall Floor from Fall '10	Smith ground floor
6	Kappa Delta Epsilon	Sorority	140	Local	College owned	9 Webster Ave
7	Kappa Kappa Gamma	Sorority	144	National	College owned	24 East Wheelock
8	Sigma Delta	Sorority	127	Local	College owned	10 West Wheelock

Total 944

	<u>Coed Council</u>					
1	Alpha Theta	Coed	52	Local	Privately owned	33 North Main St
2	Phi Tau	Coed	23	Local	Privately owned	31 North Main St
3	The Tabard	Coed	58	Local	Privately owned	3 Webster Ave

Total 133

NALFO (National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations)

1	Alpha Pi Omega Sorority Inc.	Native American Sorority	6	National	N/A	N/A
2	La Unidad Latina Lambda Upsilon Lambda Fraternity Inc.	Latino Fraternity	6	National	Residence Hall Apartment	103 Channing Cox
3	Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sigma Lambda Upsilon/Señoritas Latinas Unidas Sorority, Inc.	Latina Sorority	3	National	N/A	N/A

Total 15

NPHC National Pan Hellenic Council

1	Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.	Historically Black Sorority	13	National	Residence Hall Apartment from Fall '10	104 Channing Cox
2	Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.	Historically Black Fraternity	7	National	Residence Hall Apartment	203 Channing Cox

Total 20

Grand Total 2122 Total eligible membership, sophomore Fall status and older only

APPENDIX C

Class of 1977

Before we have more sororities or fraternities, how about doing something about the awful physical condition of the ones that are there? I thought they were bad in '77 -- with 10-15 years of deferred maintenance and no regular cleaning services.

I took my son to visit Dartmouth a year ago last fall and we went in both frats and sororities. I found we now have 45 years of accumulated damage and dirt. Adding firewalls and some bare necessity safety systems at the mandate of the college did nothing to improve the overall living conditions.

I am pro the Greek system, don't get me wrong, but given the prominence of the system in Dartmouth social life the condition of the houses is more than an embarrassment. I was house manager at Phi Delt and know that it is an impossible task to get the members to do even a passing job of keeping the house clean and maintained. It is not a losing battle, it is a lost one.

It honestly is a good thing all the doors are locked, key coded, and that prospective parents don't easily get to see inside. If they did they would hesitate to let their children attend Dartmouth. Even my son, who rarely picks up his room, and ended up going to Stanford, was put off by the conditions.

Policy matters exacerbate the problem. The 'common source' rule of the college and required registration of Kegs is a failed policy, because now the kids all buy Keystone Light beer and the floors and surroundings are littered with not only plastic cups but empty aluminum cans. Has anyone on the board or administration every taken the time to seriously consider a pragmatic approach to the tradeoffs in social policy, liability, and differing value systems as what is the 'appropriate' Dartmouth Social experience?

Turning a blind eye on the problem, or hoping that the administration and control or ignore, or financially force the Greek system into oblivion did not work for any of the past administrations. The fruits of those policies have just exacerbated the decay, which also sends a message that people don't care -- so why should the students themselves? I am probably in the minority of the alumni brothers and sisters but I don't see how any impartial observer could countenance the unseemly reflection of neglect that it gives to our illustrious alma mater.

Alumnus in the Class of '77

Class of 1958

“One Friday I got a call from one of my fraternity brothers who asked me to get involved with the house, and I said ‘sure.’ I happened to be taking some non-Dartmouth friends to a Dartmouth football game that Saturday, so we stopped by the house afterwards. I was so embarrassed. What a God-awful mess! Cups and cans everywhere, urine, and vomit. I called my friend back Monday morning and told him to count me out.”

Class of 1984 – Homecoming 2008

“I was just by the house after the game. It looked horrible. What the hell is wrong with the brothers. Can’t they even pick up after themselves? They need to grow up and take care of themselves. Do their mothers still look after them?! It’s ridiculous. Don’t ask me for any more money for the house.”

Dinner with the President

“I’m on the alumni board of my fraternity, and attended a dinner hosted by the brothers for Jim and Susan Wright. This was a very important event. In the 30 years I have been associated with the house, I don’t think a Dartmouth President ever stepped foot in the place. The dinner went off without a hitch, and the brothers wore jackets and ties and made a great impression.

...but after dinner I went to use the bathroom near where we ate. I was appalled. Thank goodness Jim and Susan did not have to use the bathroom during dinner. The toilet and floor were fouled with feces and vomit. Beer cans and cups littered the floor. What the hell is wrong with these kids? When are they going to grow up and take care of themselves. All the good will built up with President Wright could have been gone in seconds.”

APPENDIX D

4:30 PM Homecoming Saturday – After the Game (front hall)



4:30 PM Homecoming Saturday – After the Game (living room)



4:30 PM Homecoming Saturday – After the Game (main floor)





APPENDIX E

Ad Hoc Committee to Support Greek Letter Organizations Proposal of Long Range Planning Subcommittee for GLO Fund December 2009

Introduction:

The information gathered by the Ad Hoc Committee to Support Greek Letter Organizations clearly establishes the need for additional facilities for current and additional sororities at Dartmouth. Additionally, the Long Range Planning Subcommittee (the “*Subcommittee*”) has concluded, based on such information, that the physical facilities of many Greek letter organizations (“*GLOs*”), particularly GLO facilities not owned by the College, have generally deteriorated for years and will likely continue to deteriorate without improved and sustained financial support. Accordingly, the Subcommittee wishes to promote the creation of a fund (the “*GLO Fund*”), which would address these needs. The GLO Fund would be funded primarily by alumni contributions and hopefully would grow over many years and be maintained for the foreseeable future.

Description of GLO Fund:

- A segregated fund under the College 501(c)(3) umbrella to which alumni could direct some or all of their tax-deductible gifts to the College. The fund would be invested and managed by College administrators¹
- Moneys in GLO Fund would be available for loans or grants² to recognized GLOs for (i) capital improvements to existing facilities or (ii) purchases of buildings to become GLO facilities
- GLOs who satisfy qualifications to be established would make written application for loans or grants; qualifications would be used to incentivize favorable actions or behaviors by GLOs - examples might be no probation or other discipline for some period of time, demonstrated service to the greater Dartmouth community, participation by an active alumni advisory board, and past contributions to the GLO Fund by the GLO or its alumni
- Decisions on applications for loans and grants would be made by a governing body structured to ensure independence and with participation by College administrators, faculty, students and alumni³
- The GLO Fund is intended to replace and eventually expand on the existing \$8 million College program for loans to CFS Organizations,⁴ but subject to the GLO Fund reaching an adequate size. The existing loan program has enabled a number of GLOs to make

¹ An alternative, but vastly inferior, structure for the GLO Fund would be a separate 501(c)(3) entity outside the College umbrella.

² Grants may be untenable until the dollar amount in the GLO Fund becomes quite large.

³ Perhaps limit students and alumni eligible to serve on the governing body to those who are affiliated with GLOs not currently eligible for loans or grants (because they already have one) or that agree not to apply for any loan or grant for a minimum period of time in the future.

⁴ This loan program was started in 2005 and provides 10 year low interest loans of up to \$500,000 to CFS Organizations to finance "necessary repairs to their houses as identified in the Fuller Audit"; the loans are secured by a first mortgage on the property.

significant improvements to their facilities but these investments made by the GLOs should be protected with continuous access to low interest loans and grants.

Advantages:

- This is a long term financial solution for both identified needs: acquiring additional facilities and capital improvements to existing facilities
- It would be a clear, meaningful signal by the Administration and Trustees of support for healthy GLOs as part of Dartmouth community
- It creates a giving opportunity for alumni that may be generally disenchanted with College; currently, no mechanism exists for alumni to provide financial support to the Greek system in general
- The GLO fund is a significant tool for encouraging more responsible conduct and improved planning by GLOs, their members, and their alumni advisory boards

Challenges:

- The Council and the College need to examine what limits tax-deductible giving may place on the program
- The College may be reluctant to facilitate more restricted giving
- The GLO Fund must be structured appropriately to avoid competition with similar fundraising by house corporations
- The application process and the governing body must be structured appropriately to ensure fairness and transparency
- The governing body may need to implement an ongoing process to identify and prioritize needed improvements similar to the Fuller Audits