

**Minutes of the Winter Meeting of the  
Board of Directors of the Colgate University Alumni Corporation  
Saturday, January 16, 2016  
Hamilton, New York**

The winter meeting of the Board of Directors of the Colgate University Alumni Corporation (the “Alumni Council”) was held on Saturday, January 16, 2016, in Hamilton, New York.

The meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m. by Mr. Joseph McGrath ’85, President.

A silent roll call was taken by Timothy Mansfield, Executive Secretary. The following officers, directors and life member(s) were present: Mrs. Patricia Apelian ’76, Mr. Copeland G. Bertsche ’63, Mrs. Claudia J. Stephan Braden ’80, Ms. Taylor L. Buonocore-Guthrie ’08, Ms. Melissa J. Coley ’79, Mr. Sean F. Devlin ’05, Ms. Kathleen A. Dill ’89, Mr. Carmine Disibio ’85, Mr. Alden T. Doolittle ’67, Mr. Robert P. Fenity ’06, Mrs. Elizabeth Orbe Fischer ’82, Mrs. Diane Munzer Fisher ’84, Mr. Christopher J. Gavigan ’84, Mr. Robert L. Glendening ’71, Mrs. Susan L. Becker Gould ’03, Mr. Robert S. Grossman ’96, Ms. Yvonne M. Gyimah ’01, Mr. Scott S. Hague ’96, Mr. P. Bart Hale ’04, Mr. Max B. Haspel ’95, Mr. John A. Hayes ’88, Mr. Harry A. Horwitz ’76, Ms. Anne M. Huntington ’07, Mr. Robert C. Johnson ’94, Mr. Ronald A. Joyce ’73, Ms. Ashley D. Kepping ’07, Mr. Timothy C. Mansfield, Mr. Joseph P. McGrath Jr. ’85, Ms. Kaela A. Mueller ’09, Ms. Kelechi A. Oguh ’08, Mr. Denniston M. Reid, Jr. ’94, Mr. Andrew S. Roffe ’68, Dr. Robert B. Seaberg ’69, Mr. Timothy C. Seamans ’02, Mr. Eric T. Seidman ’84, Mr. Christopher W. Smith ’63, Mr. Daniel J. Solomon ’05, Dr. Christian B. Teeter ’95, Dr. Gregory A. Threatte ’69, Dr. Kelli A. Williams ’03

The following directors and life members were present for committee meetings but unable to attend the General Session: Mr. Vaughn E. Crowe, Mr. John Z. Hecker ’73, Mr. Christian B. Johnson ’02, Ms. Jessica M. Prata ’01

The following directors were absent: Mr. James O. Aston ’57, Ms. Elizabeth Buchbinder ’77, Mr. Craig U. Dana, Jr. ’91, Mr. Thomas W. Dempsey, Jr. ’72, Mrs. Debra A. Duarte ’81, Mrs. Christine Cronin Gallagher ’83, Mr. Guy V. Martin ’57, Mrs. Nancy D. Maynard ’05, Mrs. Lesley R. McNamara ’01, Mr. Amr Nosseir ’76, Mr. Brian K. Suiter ’00

The following life members were absent: Mr. Douglas G. Campbell ’50, Mr. John E. Gillick, Jr. ’67, Mr. Clifford L. Heaslip Jr. ’50, Mr. John M. LeFevre ’41, Mr. Michael S. Martin ’69, Mr. Fred C. Meendsen Sr. ’54, Mr. Scott A. Meiklejohn ’77, Mr. C. Bruce Morser ’76, Mrs. Pamela E. Odeen-LoDato ’81, Mr. Gerald D. Quill ’60, Dr. G. Gary Ripple ’64, Ms. Joanne D. Spigner ’76, Mr. Bruce F. Wesson ’64

It was established that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE FALL MEETING**

Mr. McGrath asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the fall meeting held in Hamilton, New York, in September 2015, previously distributed to the council. The motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

## **EXECUIVE COMMITTEE**

Ms. Melissa Coley, Vice President, reported that the Executive Committee met twice since the last General Session: November 3 in New York City and January 15 in Hamilton. The committee prepared agenda items for the winter meeting and reviewed standing committee reports.

## **LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT**

Mr. Copeland Bertsche '63, Legal Counsel, advised the Council about the timeline for a potential contested election. He reminded members of the April 10 deadline for petitions and that the actual election takes place at the Annual Meeting over Reunion weekend.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Robert Johnson '94, Treasurer, reported that the Alumni Council accounts were in good order and thanked the Council for 100% completion of the Conflict of Interest forms. He also reported his efforts in cooperation with the university accounting office, attorneys, and tax preparers on the 2015 IRS 990 tax forms.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT**

SophoMORE Connections

The Alumni Council meeting coincided with the annual SophoMORE Connections program. Over 400 students and 120 alumni participated in various career panels and workshops to inform and advise undergraduates. The program has proven to be a great success for sophomore students seeking guidance on courses of study, internships, career development, and study abroad opportunities. Sian Pierre Regis '06 was the keynote speaker of the event.

## **TRUSTEE REPORT**

Mr. Ronald Joyce '73, Alumni Trustee, gave a report from the Board of Trustees who was expecting to meet in New York City the following week. Mr. Joyce noted a year of transition for Colgate and the Board. Mr. Daniel Hurwitz '86 continues to serve in his first year as Board Chairman and Professor Jill Harsin is serving one year as interim President. New Alumni Trustees (Mr. Robert Seaberg '69 and Mr. Thomas Dempsey '72) were welcomed at the fall meeting and Ms. Maggie Dunne '13 was selected as a new young alumni trustee.

Mr. Joyce reported that Admissions Office continues to recognize the importance of US News & World Report rankings, and noted Colgate's position among highly selective liberal arts colleges.

Mr. Joyce reported that the Board will begin making decisions on several capital projects: the Center for Art & Culture, Benton Hall (donor financed), Class of 1965 Arena, and a new residence hall (\$38-\$45M bond financed). Also, a new architect was selected for Benton Hall.

Mr. Joyce reported that two student groups recently attended an open session with the Board of Trustees. Konosioni students provided an update on their selection process and programs, while another group (called "Colgate Forward") spoke about the climate of sexual assaults on campus.

## **FSAI UPDATE**

The Alumni Council sends a representative to the Fraternity and Sorority Alumni Initiative, which periodically meets on campus to discuss the active greek-letter student organizations. Mr. Bart Hal '04 reported that there are currently four active fraternities and three active sororities. Beta Theta Pi is currently serving a suspension.

Average size of each organization is 60 members in fraternities and 165 in sororities. Overall grade point average for students participating in greek-letter organizations is 3.36 which is .06 higher than the overall student body.

Mr. Hale also briefly reported on effective T.I.P.S. Training protocol for social events and an effort to recruit faculty advisers for each organization.

## **NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Elizabeth Buchbinder '77, chair of the Nominations Committee, announced the following nominees for the 2016 Alumni Council:

ERA I: Priit Vesilind '64  
ERA II: William C. Baker '70  
ERA III: Patricia Binder Spindel '79, P'11'17  
ERA IV: Edward Witz '89  
ERA V: Richard Burke '92  
ERA VI: Chad Cooley '00  
ERA VII: Robert Sobelman '08  
At-Large: Max Haspel '95  
At-Large: Andrew Sweet '93

Pending any petition candidates and election, these candidates will be voted into position during the annual meeting in June, 2016.

The following Regional Vice-President nominees were also proposed and approved by the Council:

Regional Vice President for Mid-Atlantic :Elizabeth Levine-Brown '01

Regional Vice President for Mid-West :Stephen Rock '85

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

During the Executive Session of the General Session, Mr. Joseph McGrath '85 announced the appointment of Gregory Dahlberg '98 to fill the unexpired ERA V term for Craig Dana '91. The Council unanimously approved that appointment.

Ms. Anne Huntington '07 (Awards Committee chair) announced the winners of the annual alumni awards, scheduled to be presented during reunion on June 3, 2016. They are as follows:

William Brian Little '64 Award for Distinguished Service:

*Robert H.N. Ho '56*

*Todd C. Brown '71*

*Mark D. Nozette '71*

*Edward D. Werner '71*

*Brion Applegate '76*

*Barry J. Small '76*

Maroon Citations:

*Art Stenari '56*

*Tom Carlson '66*

*Jim Eppolito '66*

*Robert Aberlin '66*

*Leroy Cody '71*

*Robert Glendenning '71*

*Pat Apelian '76*

*Harry Horwitz '76*

*Gretchen Burke '81*

*Rob Fawcett '91*

*Alvin Glymph '91*

*Yvonne Gyimah '01*

*Katie Roberts '01*

Maroon Citations – staff:

*Dorrie Ackerman '81, Advancement*

*Dan Hunt, Football Head Coach*

*Amy Montroy, Alumni Relations*

Ann Yao '80 Memorial Young Alumni Award:

*Allyson Poulos '11*

*Chris P. Vogelsang '11*

The Entrepreneur of the Year Award will be presented during the April 8-10 Entrepreneur Weekend. John Levisay '89 has been selected as this year's recipient.

The Awards Committee will be selecting winners for the Humanitarian Award and Distinguished Teaching Award at their April meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The following committee reports were compiled after the January meeting and distributed to members. These reports were not reviewed during the General Session meeting on January 16, 2016:

### *DISTRICT CLUBS COMMITTEE*

The District Clubs committee met as a group to continue their ongoing discussions around increasing engagement with a particular focus on the Colgate Professional Networks. Mr. Timothy Seamans '02, committee chair, demonstrated a method to targeting in-person events in local markets using data from the Alumni Office, visualized through geo-location mapping software. This data will allow club leaders to identify areas (and potential alumni) to target events in "hub" areas. Using smaller, targeted events seemed to be successful in most alumni club markets and direct contact from fellow alums was most effective in engaging new Colgate alumni and encouraging new hosting environments. The majority of the Council felt that the Alumni Clubs and Professional Networks would be best served collaborating and joining forces. This would empower alumni volunteers to be engaged with the events, prevent "event saturation" and the unfortunate double-booking that can occur.

In addition to the Club & Professional Network conversations, each Alumni Council RVP was tasked with following up via email/phone with the club leaders in their region and offering updates and being a sounding board for that club. RVPs are also in charge of our quest to reinvigorate club areas that have become less active. Key areas we are looking for Colgate alumni leaders & volunteers to rally Colgate alumni to at least one event: Portland, OR; New Jersey Shore (Long Beach); Baltimore, MD; Lehigh Valley, PA; Minneapolis/St Paul, MN; Cincinnati, OH; Hartford, CT; Providence, RI; Ft Lauderdale & Tampa, FL; Atlanta, GA; Phoenix, AZ. Please email Tim Seamans '02 (tseamans@gmail.com) or Laura Masse (lmasse@colgate.edu) if you know of any potential alums in those areas that might be interested in supporting a local Colgate Club.

#### *COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE*

Ms. Taylor Buonocore '08, committee chair, introduced Ms. Rebecca Downing (Interim Vice President of Communications) and her staff. They continue to request alumni stories and encouraged all alumni to share news and updates about alumni to news@colgate.edu. "You can't overload us," said Matt Hames, Communications Strategist. The Communications staff is also working closely with Career Services to launch the new virtual professional networks.

Also, throughout the course of the weekend, Council members "live-tweeted" updates from different committee meetings for the public to read. They posted 33 tweets over the 36 hours of meetings, collecting about 30 new followers in that time. Members will be live-tweeting again during the April meeting, and were offered a one-day takeover of the @colgateuniv handle as well.

#### *ADMISSION COMMITTEE*

Ms. Diane Fisher '84, chair of the admission committee, introduced Mr. Gary Ross, Vice President and Dean of Admission as part of the State of the 'Gate session. Ross started out by sharing news of staffing changes. Ms. Marcelle Tyburski, Director of Financial Aid, will retire after a long and distinguished career at Colgate. Additionally, two admission staffers will be leaving in the next few months, leaving the office a bit understaffed at mid-year.

Reporting on the deadline date for submitting applications, Ross shared that Colgate has received over 8,200 for the Class of 2020. More applications are expected before the deadline is reached.

Ross also gave some details about Colgate's participation in the Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success. The Coalition, which includes 80 schools, is unveiling a new application in the summer of 2016 as an alternative to the Common Application. It also will provide a free platform of online tools to streamline the experience of applying to college, which will be particularly helpful to students coming from schools with limited resources. The initial announcement of the new application was met with some negativity by some in the college counseling community. Ross attributes this to poor communication on the part of the Coalition during the roll out. The Coalition is working to rectify this problem.

#### *CAREER SERVICES COMMITTEE*

Ms. Yvonne Gyimah '01, Committee Chair, asked that each member of the committee and broader Alumni Council provide feedback on supplemental course options and the Employer Target Outreach program. During the next Career Services meeting we will discuss the feedback received and develop an agenda/brainstorming session to hold with the broader Alumni Council in April.

#### *ATHLETICS COMMITTEE*

Mr. Robert Glendening '71, committee chair, introduced three guests that showed how Colgate is helping its student-athletes both with their academic and career planning. Ms. Teresa Olsen, Director of Strategic Operations, talked about how Career Services is working to advise Colgate student-athletes to think earlier about their career plans after Colgate. Ms. Angela Marathakis, Academic Adviser, and Ms. Ann-Marie Guglieri, Associate Director of Athletics, spoke about academic support for student-athletes. They also reviewed the fall semester for varsity and recreation sports. In addition, the wonderful football season gave Colgate good publicity and positive results in many areas. There were questions and answers throughout the hour long meeting.

#### *ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE*

Ms. Jennifer Stone, Director of Annual Giving and Professional Networks, brought two colleagues to review the Alumni Giving Rate (AGR). The AGR is important to Colgate for multiple reasons. Perhaps the two most important reasons are that it counts for 5% of a school's ranking in U.S. News & World Report and is a benchmark for comparison with peer schools. Also, it is a measure of pride in the institution, a component of the alumni engagement index (percentage of alumni who engage with the University in various ways), and an indicator of future gifts.

Colgate's AGR declined in fiscal year 2015 from fiscal year 2014. In the 2015 U.S. News & World Report top 25 institutions for Colgate's category, Colgate ranked 15th for AGR.

Based on data, Colgate has modified or will modify fundraising efforts including the Student Calling Program, the Giving Page (on the Colgate website), volunteer outreach, and other activities.

Members of the Alumni Council were asked to write appeals (based on affinity, class, era, professional network, etc.), conduct personal outreach to classmates, peers, and affinity groups, and share Colgate giving messages on social media. The response was positive during and after the meeting.

#### *INTELLECTUAL ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE*

Intellectual Engagement Committee Co-Chair, Mr. Christian Teeter '95, reviewed the committee's charge and clarified its purely advisory role to the Alumni Council and the Colgate administration. A brief re-cap took place from the Committee's September meeting with Interim Provost Constance Harsh. The Committee asked for the Council's input on having Interim Provost Harsh return at a later time, and the response was favorable

The Committee discussed the listing of intellectual engagement activities compiled by the Alumni Office. Committee members weighed in on these topics, covering areas such as ColgateX, alumni visits to campus for faculty events, and traditional faculty visits to Alumni clubs in the field. Interest was also expressed in giving Alumni Council members the capability to make suggestions or updates online about possible intellectual engagement activities that could be considered for the future.

With the support of the Alumni Office and other campus contacts, alumni and graduating seniors are currently completing surveys related to academic/intellectual experiences, as well as to glean the perspective of the respondents about preferences and interests related to alumni intellectual engagement. There was a brief question and answer session from Committee members and members of the Council at-large about the project. Assuming all remains on track with the research process, the findings will be presented to the Council at the April meeting.

#### *UNIVERSITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE*

Committee chair Vaughn Crowe '02 introduced Dr. Suzy Nelson, Vice President and Dean of the College, and Dr. Scott Brown, Associate Vice President and Dean of Students. The meeting included a report on sexual misconduct and sexual assault on campus based on a recent survey. All agreed that the number of incidents occurring on campus is unacceptable. As an outcome from the survey results, the University is taking aggressive steps to curtail the number of incidents and create a safer environment for all students. The administration will continue to learn more from students and will more regularly monitor and survey students.

Nelson provided links to the NYS Enough is Enough law (2015), the Federal report (2014), and the university's HEDs survey data (2015).

[NYS Enough is Enough](#)  
[Not Alone report](#)  
[Colgate's HEDs data 2015](#)

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McGrath adjourned the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Timothy Mansfield  
Executive Secretary

