

Cornell Class of 1965 Class Meeting Minutes, Feb 16, 2024

The Meeting was called to order by President Jamil Sopher at 4:00 PM EST via Zoom

Present at the Meeting were President Sopher, Vice Presidents Liz Gordon, and Steve Hand, Secretary William Vanneman, Correspondents Joan Hens Johnson and Stephen Appell, and Councilors Myron Jacobson (Reunion Chair), Charles Andola, Bruce Smoller, Barry Cutler, Jeff Kass, Frank McCreary, Laureen Knutsen, George Arangio, Penny Skitol Haitkin, Barbara Press Turner, Grace Morgenstein and Judy Rushmore. Cornell Administration was represented by Lauren Coffey, Jordan Clark, and Coleen Drozd.

- 1) A moment of silence was observed for long time Treasurer and Council Member Sharon Williams, who passed away recently. Sharon's leadership and efforts over decades was, is and will be greatly appreciated by the entire Class of 1965.
- 2) Laureen Knutsen was unanimously elected Class Treasurer, Sharon and Laureen had communicated multiple times about the Class Finances.
- 3) Steve Hand submitted a summary of the Webmasters Report. He continues to coordinate with Keith Kubarek, who has renewed the Domain name, e-mail and deceased Classmates for a very reasonable \$350. Our number of deceased classmates now totals 428.
- 4) Laureen Knutsen, summarized the Treasurers Report. A balance of \$132,465 remains, long term investments yielded \$2,700. There was brief discussion about potential distribution of these funds. Further discussion will continue after the 60th Reunion in June 2025.
- 5) Myron Jacobson, Liz Gordon, and Jeff Kass discussed ideas for the 60th Reunion in June, 2025. This will be the first real reunion in ten years, the 2020 Reunion being cancelled because of COVID. Primary objective will be to create a wonderful experience, a good time for all, attempting to maximize turnout. Discussions of goals included Thank You to the University, the Legacy gift, Climate Change, Geothermal Energy (Project 2030).

- 6) The Legacy Gift (of which Reunion Gift will be a part) was discussed and reviewed with a slide presentation created by Jeff Kass (chairman), Bruce Smoller MD, Grace Morgenstein, and Penny Haitkin. The Pilot program created and organized by Skorton Center Director Julie Edwards,, with goal of boosting "Resiliency" has been extremely successful. Eight coaches, were trained, with 59 appointments, 26 initial and 33 follow up. Appointments were both in person and virtual. Positive changes were reported in 93% of sessions. Most common comment was "Change Nothing", and continue into future. The program will continue into the Spring with same number of coaches, and a slightly expanded number of "coaches". \$97,750 has been raised, with \$90,000 raised by the Gift Committee. Next steps include three letters to the Class; one in February, explaining the Gift, a Fund raising letter in May-June, and a Fall letter reviewing the Class Gift for the 60th Reunion as part of the Legacy Gift.
- 7) President Sopher asked of additional business.
- 8) There being none, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully Submitted, William Vanneman, Class of 1965 Secretary