

Class of 1965 Minutes from Zoom Meeting, Thursday, Feb 25, 2021 as part of CACO Zoom conference during the COVID pandemic.

- 1) The Class Meeting was called to order by Class President, Jamil Sopher @1633 Thursday Feb 25, 2021. Present at the Meeting in addition to President Sopher were Vice Presidents, Liz Gordon, Louis Ferraro Jr., Stephen Hand (Website Manager), Treasurer Sharon Williams, Secretary William Vanneman Jr., Reunion Chair Myron Jacobson, Immediate Past President Frank McCreary, Class Council Members George Arangio, Becky Baskett, Barry Cutler, Michael Duffy, Walter Gadkowski, Penny Skitol Haitkin, Jeffery Kass, Robert Kessler, Lauren Knutsen, Grace Herschberg Morgenstein, Judith Kellner Rushmore, and Barbara Press Turner. Charles Andola was absent with prior commitment.
- 2) Sharon Williams reviewed the Treasurer's Report (attached), There is \$120,000 in the Treasury, in excess of the predicted need for upcoming Class functions through the 75<sup>th</sup> Reunion. The estimate is that this amount is about \$50,000 more than is likely to be needed, based upon Reunion Deficits that run between \$15-20,000/reunion. This prompted discussion on options for the dispersal of remainder of the funds. Class Scholarship (presently \$290,000) and Library Fund (presently \$60,000) were among possibilities reviewed, in addition to the possibility of reducing or eliminating Class Dues.
- 3) Class Dues. Several months ago, Cornell advised us that it was terminating publication of the Alumni Magazine and Ezra; as a result, the University's charge of \$32 per year per dues paying class member would be terminated beginning with the 2021-22 fiscal year. As a result, the Class Council decided in December to reduce our annual dues to \$35 per year per class member (\$45 per year for Class of '65 Married Couple). There is general agreement that we should include as many Classmates as possible as members of the class; and while Class Dues are modest, even this amount could be problematic for some. In addition, since there will no longer be a print Cornell Alumni News magazine, the additional "add on" will no longer be a factor. Jamil Sopher proposed establishment of a Committee to further evaluate various options for charging dues, including possibility of eliminating them altogether.
- 4) Judy Rushmore provided report (attached) that reviewed Fund Raising for the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. The Goal of \$17M was exceeded, a total of \$19M (a record) was raised from 414 total contributors, including 75 Tower Club Members. However, Class participation overall declined from 34% to 28%. While the overall Fund Raising number was good, there was concern that the \$19M number was associated with a few very large donors. A major future goal will be to increase overall Class participation.

- 5) There is uncertainty re. overall Class size. The University has 1,600 mail addresses, and 1,100 e-mail addresses for Class of 1965, but the number of “reachable” Class members is unknown.
  
- 6) Liz Gordon and Joan Hens reported on the Zoom Class Mixer (Coordinated by Tony Chen) as one of the methods to increase Class engagement. Cornell’s administration orchestrates these mixers, which take place once every two weeks on a rotating basis either on Saturdays from 6 PM - 5 AM or Sundays from 11 AM – 3 AM Eastern time; this schedule permits participation of Alumni from around the world. Prior to the Official Mixer, the University has accommodated Classes wishing to hold a pre-mixer events in dedicated suites.
  
- 7) Steve Hand reported on the Website Access: Classmates email addresses are now included. The Freshman Register has now been scanned and can be downloaded from the Website.
  
- 8) Joan Hens Johnson and Steve Appel, Class Correspondents, reported on Class Column activities and the uncertainty of how this will continue after the print Alumni News ceases publication in June 2021. The University is expected to make decision in the near future about a future print publication, and is expected to announce the details in the near future. The Class Column has always been one of the most popular sections of the Alumni News, and it will continue to be included in an on-line communications hub.
  
- 9) Judy Rushmore will be hosting a luncheon April 14 at Seasons 52 in North Naples Fla.<sup>th</sup> for all Class of 1965 Cornellians who might be in the south Florida area. She has hosted and organized a Spring luncheon for over a decade which has proven a great event for all able to attend.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Vanneman Jr., Class of 1965 Secretary