Call to Order
President Joseph P. McGrath ’85, P’15, P’20 called the annual meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the
Lawrence Hall Terrace Lounge

Nine Colgate University alumni members were in attendance. President McGrath asked the Executive
Secretary if the required number of proxy forms were completed to hold the annual meeting. Secretary
Mansfield confirmed that due notice was made in the local newspaper about the annual meeting and
that over 100 signed proxies were submitted to his office.

President’s Report
- University President Brian W. Casey joined Colgate in July 2016 and was inaugurated in early
October that coincided with the fall meeting of the Alumni Council
- During the winter and spring meeting, President Casey made time for the Alumni Council to
discuss his observations and vision for Colgate
- The three campus meetings focused on three themes: alumni engagement, career development,
and financial support of the institution. McGrath also noted that student engagement during all
Alumni Council meetings was a priority.
  o Career Services – developing outcomes for students, strengthening the Colgate
    Professional Networks, internship funding, management skills training, and employer
    relations
  o Advancement – help improve the Alumni Giving Rate (AGR) to 48%, support the Pass the
    Torch Campaign, and commit to 100% participation from the Alumni Council
  o Alumni Engagement – renewed energy for alumni intellectual engagement, supporting
    E-Weekend, Homecoming, Reunion and SophoMORE Connections
- McGrath noted some challenges that Colgate (and other colleges and universities) faced in
  2016-17:
  o Prevalence of sexual assault violations
  o Debate on the role of Greek Life
  o Creating a diverse and inclusive environment for all students
  o Emergency protocol
- McGrath acknowledged additional good work of the Alumni Council in 2016-17:
  o Updated Alumni Council website to improve transparency and communication
  o Awards Ceremony (June 2) recognized outstanding alumni service and support
  o Nominations Committee identifying ten new alumni leaders

Legal Counsel Report
- President McGrath gave the following report in the absence of Mr. Copeland Bertsche ’63 (Legal
  Counsel) who could not attend Reunion:
I am pleased to report that there were no significant legal issues that needed to be addressed during the past year. I am also pleased to note that we were saved the expense of a contested election, although a not insignificant of time was diverted in preparation for that possible eventuality. With numerous ad hoc changes over the past years, our bylaws have become increasingly difficult to comprehend, in some cases do not properly reflect the manner in which we conduct our business and in other ways need amendment to address operational inefficiencies. As a result, the Council leadership has requested a complete review and restatement of the bylaws. That process has started with the appointment of a small working group and is expected to continue through next year. It is also expected that, as part of that process, we will take the opportunity to develop a strategic plan so that that plan drives the bylaws and not the other way around.

Finally, as Joe McGrath retires from the presidency and the Council, I would like to commend him on a job exceedingly well done. A strong, inclusive, focused leader, Joe has led the Council exceedingly well. The Council will miss him and, personally, as I have gotten to know Joe over the past few years, I will miss a friend and colleague. But we will carry on. I am excited at the prospect of working with the new leadership team of Melissa Coley, as President, Carmine DiSibio as VP and President-elect, and Pat Apelian as Treasurer. We are fortunate that Robert Johnson will still be with us, not as Treasurer, but as Alumni Trustee, carrying our message to the BOT and liaising back to us.

Mr. Chairman that concludes my report. I regret I was not able to attend the annual meeting personally, but a granddaughter’s high school graduation in Hawaii called.”

Treasurer’s Report

- President McGrath gave the following report in the absence of Mr. Robert Johnson ’94 (Treasurer) who could not attend Reunion:
  “As most of you know, the Alumni Corporation is a separate and distinct entity from Colgate University, and we were chartered as a non-profit corporation under the laws of NY State in 1919.

While we are separate, we are funded primarily by the University and we rely on their support for staff and other resources including significant help from the Alumni Office and financial and tax assistance from Colgate’s finance office.

Our fiscal year ends June 30th, so the numbers presented at our annual meeting are preliminary and may change as the books are closed over the next several months.

This year the Alumni Corporation spent approximately $41,000, which is in line with prior years. As usual, the majority of our expenditures revolved around the three meetings we hold on campus. While we have taken steps in recent years to reduce these expenses, there is a significant cost to feed and provide meeting space for 50 people.
Some of our additional expenses include the framed award certificates given out this weekend, a cash stipend which is given with our Distinguished Teaching awards, and some costs for Tim’s Alumni Council related travel.

The Alumni Corporation holds funds in trust as a service for various classes, and we currently have a little over $100,000 in mutual funds and money market accounts. The amount we hold for classes has been decreasing steadily for the last few years as we have encouraged classes to either use their funds or donate them to the University.

The Alumni Corporation filed our tax return, known as a 990, on May 1st for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.

As I end my four years as Treasurer, I want to thank Tom O’Neill, the University’s Controller, for all of the assistance he has given me, and I would like to congratulate him on his Maroon Citation.

I also want to welcome Pat Apelian as the incoming Treasurer – I know she will do an outstanding job!

Finally, I would like to thank Joe McGrath for his leadership over the last two years. It has been a pleasure working with Joe, Melissa, Co, and Tim.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Johnson, ’94
Treasurer, Colgate University Alumni Corporation, Inc.”

Discussion
- A question was raised about any changes to the NYS non-profit law that may impact the Alumni Council. Mr. McGrath responded that Legal Counsel (Co Bertsche ’63) regularly reviews any changes and consults with the university’s counsel from Bond, Scheneck & King to adapt any bylaws.
- A comment was raised about the door at the Colgate Inn, needing some repair and improvement.

Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Timothy Mansfield
Executive Secretary