

**Minutes of the Spring Meeting of the
Board of Directors of the Colgate University Alumni Corporation**

Friday, April 3, 2020

(via teleconference)

Due to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors of the Colgate University Alumni Corporation (“Alumni Council”) conducted its spring meeting virtually by telephone and Zoom on Friday, April 3, 2020.

Presentation by President Brian W. Casey

Alumni Council President, Christian Johnson ’02, welcomed Colgate President Brian W. Casey to provide an update on Colgate’s response to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 crisis. During his presentation, President Casey offered information about student support during their transition from campus and curriculum changes for the remainder of the semester. He described the tremendous effort of Colgate faculty to adapt their coursework online while receiving the training they needed on a variety of web-based platforms.

President Casey emphasized the importance of student, faculty, and staff safety. He discussed the protective measures taken to keep the community safe while migrating to / from campus.

The presentation also included updates on the university’s endowment, capital project planning, and financial health. Under the supervision of Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, J.S. Hope ’97, and endowment managers, Colgate is positioned strongly to manage market fluctuation. The length of the pandemic will determine the true financial picture for Colgate in the coming months. The Board of Trustees and Casey’s administration will be modeling different scenarios to prepare for any outcome.

President Casey signaled an Alumni Town Hall for Tuesday, April 8 when he is expected to share similar information with all alumni. Participants may watch live online or read a written summary posted on Colgate’s website.

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Following President Casey’s remarks, the official meeting was called to order at 11:07 by Mr. Christian Johnson ’02, President.

A silent roll call was taken by Timothy C. Mansfield, Executive Secretary.

The following officers, directors and life member(s) were present by phone/Zoom:

Mrs. Johanna Ames ’98, Mrs. Patricia E. Apelian ’76, Mr. Lawrence G. Arnold ’63, Mr. Thomas A. Baker ’69, Mr. William C. Baker ’70, Mr. Richard M. Burke ’92, Mr. Robert P. Burke ’85, Ms. Becky Bye ’02, Mr. Paul H. Cascio ’83, Mrs. Jessica M. Prata Cianciara ’01, Mr. Karl W.

Clauss '90, Mr. Gus P. Coldebella '91, Ms. Melissa J. Coley '79, Mr. Gregory M. Dahlberg '98, Mrs. Elizabeth W. DiCesare '05, Mrs. Lauren P. D'Onofrio '82, Mrs. Theresa Donahue Egler '77, Mr. Bruce S. Ferguson '91, Mrs. Christine Cronin Gallagher '83, Mrs. Susan L. Becker Gould '03, Ms. Barbara J. Gould '81, Mrs. Lauri Curtis Hadobas '77, Mr. Max B. Haspel '95, Mr. Christian B. Johnson '02, Mr. Robert C. Johnson '94, Mr. C. Thomas Kunz '72, Ms. Cara A. Lawler '05, Dr. Elizabeth F. Levine-Brown '01, Mrs. Kate S. Levine-Freedman '05, Ms. Debra S. LoCastro '05, Mr. Timothy C. Mansfield ', Ms. Sheverne O. Martin '08, Mr. Kevin A. McMurtry '88, Mr. John R. McQueen Esq. '70, Mrs. Pamela E. Odeen-LoDato '81, Mr. Timothy A. O'Neill '78, Mrs. Jane Najarian Porter '74, Mrs. Emily R. Radovic '02, Mr. David L. Rea '82, Mr. Tal-ee E. Roberts '01, Mr. Stephen A. Rock '85, Mr. Andrew S. Roffe '68, Mrs. Melanie B. Schiff '04, Mr. James C. Silas '06, Mr. Robert B. Sobelman '08, Ms. Joanne D. Spigner '76, Mrs. Patricia L. Spindel '79, Mrs. Kimberly J. Taylor '80, Mr. Jon D. Tiktinsky '82, Mr. Jarrett R. Turner '04, Mr. Christopher P. Vogelsang, Jr. '11, Mr. Carlton W. Walker '10, Mr. Edward P. Witz '89

The following directors were absent:

Mr. Chad E. Cooley '00, Mr. Thomas W. Dempsey Jr. '72, Mr. Karl D. Fries '10, Mr. Ronald A. Joyce '73, Mr. Joseph P. McGrath Jr. '85, Mr. Fred C. Meendsen Sr. '54, Mr. Scott A. Meiklejohn '77, Mr. C. Bruce Morser '76, Mr. Ian J. Murphy '10, Mr. Christopher L. Nulty '09, Mr. Gerald D. Quill '60, Mr. Denniston M. Reid '94, Dr. G. Gary Ripple '64, Mr. Bruce F. Wesson '64

It was established that a full quorum (at least 28 members) was present.

General Session

After calling the meeting to order, Mr. Johnson moved to the Executive Session (requesting all non-members to excuse themselves from the online meeting).

During Executive Session, the following action was taken:

1. A motion to approve the minutes of the winter meeting held in New York, NY, in January 2020, previously distributed to the council. A motion was made to approve the minutes, seconded and approved unanimously.
2. A motion was made to hold the January 2021 meeting in Hamilton, NY; seconded and approved by all,
3. A motion was made to approve revisions to the corporation's bylaws which were sent in advance to all members; seconded and approved by all, and
4. A motion was made to approve the chair and new members of the Nominations Committee for 2020-21; names were Ms. Lauri Hadobas '77 (chair), Ms. Johanna Ames '98, Ms. Cara Lawler '05, Ms. Kimberly Taylor '80, and Mr. Carlton Walker '10

Ms. Susie Becker Gould '03 made a call for nominations for the Vice President position and one Alumni Trustee position, both beginning in July 2021.

Mr. Johnson provided an update on the Alumni Council's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative, and made a call for volunteer membership on the DE&I ad-hoc committee. He also discussed recognition of the 2020 alumni award winners since Reunion 2020 is rescheduled for next year. Additionally, Mr. Johnson opened a discussion on how the Alumni Council could support the Class of 2020.

Finally, Mr. Johnson recognized those members of the Alumni Council retiring this year: Mr. William Baker '70 (ERA II), Mr. Richard Burke '92 (ERA V), Mr. Max Haspel '95 (At Large), Ms. Betsy Levine-Brown '01 (Mid-Atlantic), Mr. Stephen Rock '85 (Mid-West), Ms. Patricia Spindel '79 (ERA III), Mr. Robert Sobelman '08 (ERA VII) and Mr. Edward Witz '89 (ERA IV). Each was thanked for their loyal service on the Alumni Council and their cooperation to suspend their retirement dinner.

Committee Reports

Academic Life Committee:

Mr. Karl Clauss '90 (chair) reported that the committee met telephonically on Tuesday, March 31. Mr. Clauss began the meeting with a recap of items addressed during the January meeting. Following a brief update on the campus management of the COVID-19 crisis, Ms. Jillian Cole '10 led a conversation on how the Alumni Office is transitioning its programming to online engagement strategies in response to COVID-19. Ideas were presented touching on a variety of online content ranging from live webinars, to faculty lectures, to alumni presentations, and virtual Town Halls. Ms. Jillian Cole and Ms. Kathryn Seager '09 then shared very positive registration stats related to the rollout of the Colgate Link. Over 2,100 alumni signed up in the first four days exceeding expectations by a significant margin. The group discussed how this new platform could be used to host a variety of content to enhance alumni engagement / intellectual engagement. The Committee will pursue a meeting with Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Dr. Tracey Hucks, in the coming weeks to get a better sense of how the faculty is navigating the transition to online instruction.

Alumni Engagement Committee:

Ms. Shevorne Martin '08 (chair) reported on the following intentions of the committee:

- Philanthropic initiatives and communication to alumni: "It is the perfect time for Colgate to say I am here for you!"; sending a message that Colgate still supports its alumni; during this time there may be a career changes, loss of jobs, or need to network.
- Importance of building connectivity online during this crisis.
- [The Colgate Link](#) is Colgate's official online community driving powerful professional and social connections within the Colgate community. It has the following features, which we are offering to alumni and students in one place, for the first time:
 - Alumni Directory
 - Discussion Board

- Groups (regional, professional networks, Presidents' Club, affinity & identity groups, student-athletes)
- In-system messaging (delivered to email inbox)
- Alumni Job Board
- Event Promotion and Registration
 - Reunion: the committee discussed ways that alumni registrants could forego their refund to support Colgate during this crisis.
 - Continue Education Opportunities: offering continuous learning / education opportunities for alumni; utilizing alumni experts for webinars or courses.

Awards Committee:

Mr. Jon Tiktinsky '82 (chair) provided the following update from the committee, following the cancellation of Reunion 2020 and annual awards ceremony:

- The committee believes a note of recognition should go out to all of this year's alumni award winners.
- Since Reunion next year will encompass two sets of reunion classes we can appropriately acknowledge this year's recipients as well as next year's at reunion 2021. The one caveat being the ceremony itself must be altered so that it doesn't extend in time beyond that of a typical year.
- The awards committee will work with the nominations committee to enhance our data for evaluating candidates. A subcommittee between the two groups will be evaluated as an option.

Campus Connections Committee:

Mr. Stephen Rock '85 (chair) reported that, in addition to the Campus Connections Committee's ongoing interest in Colgate's plans to manage through the coronavirus pandemic, the Committee has an ongoing interest in the following areas:

- The evolution of the Residential Commons system, and how it relates to the Broad Street rehabilitation / renovation program.
- The ability of students to self-select their housing communities, e.g., upper class women's hockey living together.
- The Athletic Division's strategies and plans.
- Involvement with students to hear their perspectives directly.

Career Initiatives Committee:

Mr. Edward Witz '89 (chair) reported that the committee met telephonically on Wednesday, April 1. The committee noted that "junior and senior students at Colgate have had their worlds turned upside down even more than most of the rest of us. Many seniors and even some juniors had everything figured out. Many had a job or internship likely to turn into a job - and are no

longer sure they have a job. Others who don't yet have a job have spent a lot of time devising a post-graduation game plan which may be totally up in the air now. Furthermore, they can't just walk over to Benton Hall and get help figuring things out.”

The Career Planning staff is all working remotely while trying to help students through this most uncertain time. They have been sending out weekly emails to students and trying to stay in touch as much as possible.

Mr. Witz reported that since many paid internships may be cancelled, the unpaid internship fund will be even more important for many students. Colgate has raised \$180K so far against a \$300K goal for the fund. Mr. Witz encouraged the Alumni Council to consider allocating some of their Colgate gifts to this fund.

Communications Committee:

Ms. Jessica Cianciara '01 (chair) provided the following report from the Communications Committee. The Colgate Alumni ([@ColgateAlumni](#)) twitter account is routinely updated with impressive information and news about alumni. Alumni Council members are encouraged to follow that account and share information to alumniCouncil@colgate.edu with more news.

During the COVID-19 crisis, the committee will consider ways to communicate with alumni about new engagement opportunities, ways to support students, and Colgate news.

Nominations Committee:

Mr. Richard Burke '92 (chair) provided the following update from the committee. First, he appreciated the affirmative vote on the four new members of the nominations committee (Ms. Joanna Ames '98, Mr. Carlton Walker '10, Ms. Cara Lawler '05, and Ms. Kimberly Taylor '80). Mr. Burke also committed to working with the awards committee on improving alumni profiles and sharing valuable data and engagement metrics. The Nominations Committee will also be informed by the work of the ad hoc committee on diversity, equity, and inclusion which may develop guiding principles for Alumni Council membership.

Ms. Lauri Hadobas '77 will assume the chair position in 2020 and is currently reviewing vice-chair options.

Respectfully Submitted,



Timothy Mansfield
Executive Secretary