



**Colgate University Alumni Council
April 2021 Executive Summary and Meeting Minutes**

The Colgate Alumni Council consists of 55 alumni elected for their exemplary volunteer service to Colgate, together with the Executive Secretary who shall not have a vote (all of the above 56 shall be known as Directors), and former Alumni Council Presidents who are not Directors and have no voting rights (“Life Members”). Its members represent the approximately 36,000 living alumni in the Colgate Alumni Corporation, and each member strives to be a "Colgate ambassador": enhancing the experience of all Colgate alumni by becoming deeply familiar with the state of the college; promoting robust communications, interesting and useful programming, and other modes of connection and engagement; and providing venues for alumni to discuss Colgate issues.

On April 9, 2021, the Alumni Council met virtually via Zoom for its third meeting of the 2020–2021 fiscal year. The Council's work is conducted through its committees and meetings of the entire Council. Below is a summary of the Council's work. Please read what the Council is working on, follow the links to additional information, and feel free to contact us: we are eager to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

A silent roll call was taken by Kathryn Saeger '09, Deputy 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, Mrs. Brooke S. Beck '94, Mr. Robert P. Burke '85, Ms. Becky Bye '02, Mr. Paul H. Cascio '83, Ms. Melissa J. Coley '79, Mr. Gregory M. Dahlberg '98, Mr. Thomas W. Dempsey Jr. '72, Mrs. Elizabeth W. DiCesare '05, Ms. Jocelyn B. Donat '88, 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, Mrs. Susan Horowitz '76, Mr. Robert C. Johnson '94, Mrs. Erin Kiritsy '12, Mr. C. Thomas Kunz '72, Ms. Cara A. Lawler '05, Mrs. Kate S. Levine-Freedman '05, Ms. Debra S. LoCastro '05, Ms. Shevorne O. Martin '08, Mr. Kevin A. McMurtry '88, Mr. John R. McQueen Esq. '70, Mr. Christopher L. Nulty '09, Mr. Timothy A. O'Neill '78, Mr. Jean-Pierre Paquin '96, Mrs. Jane Najarian Porter '74, Mrs. Emily R. Radovic '02, Mr. David L. Rea '82, Mr. Denniston M. Reid '94, Mrs. Allyson E. Riemma '11, Mr. Tal-ee E. Roberts '01, Mr. Andrew S. Roffe '68, Mrs. Melanie B. Schiff '04, Mr. James C. Silas '06, Mr. James A. Speight IV '14, Ms. Jennifer A. Stone, Mrs. Kimberly Esmay Taylor '80, Mr. Carlton W. Walker '10, Mr. Kevin A. Zimmerman '90

The following directors and life members were present by phone/Zoom for committee meetings but unable to attend the General Session:

Mr. Chad E. Cooley '00, Mr. Christian B. Johnson '02, Mrs. Lauren P. D'Onofrio '82, Mr. Bruce F. Wesson '64

The following directors were absent:

Mr. Ian J. Murphy '10, Mr. Jon D. Tiktinsky '82, Mrs. Jessica M. Prata Cianciara '01, Mr. Karl D. Fries '10, Mr. Jarrett R. Turner '04, Mr. Christopher P. Vogelsang, Jr. '11, Mr. Joseph A. Leo '01, Mr. William C. McClean, III '63

The following life members were absent:

Mr. Gus P. Coldebella '91, 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, Mrs. Pamela E. Odeen-LoDato '81, Mr. Gerald D. Quill '60, Dr. G. Gary Ripple '64, Ms. Joanne D. Spigner '76

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

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Meeting with President Brian W. Casey

The Alumni Council was pleased to welcome President Brian W. Casey to share in a conversation about Colgate. Dr. Casey provided remarks about the Colgate Commitment, a new financial aid initiative which seeks to make Colgate more accessible and affordable to lower and middle income students. The Alumni Council alongside the Presidents' Club Membership Council will be asked to help launch this initiative with a \$1 million commitment by June 1. President Casey also spoke about plans for Residential Life, including plans for upper campus and proposed sites for a fifth Commons on the Hill. President Casey then spoke about the Lower Campus, and the initiative to create a neighborhood that creates a sense of belonging and community for all students. President Casey concluded his remarks with a preview of the Fall semester and information about COVID vaccination plans.

Meeting with Gary Ross, The Jones and Wood Family Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid / Tara Bubble, Dean of Admission

The Alumni Council was also pleased to meet with Gary Ross, The Jones and Wood Family Vice President for Admission and Financial Aid, as well as Tara Bubble, Dean of Admission. Mr. Ross provided information about the admissions process and increase in applications this year which led to an all-time record admittance rate (17.2%). Colgate also saw a significant increase in multicultural student applications (35% increase). In addition, 10% of the pool is represented as non-US students. Mr. Ross spoke about the opportunity that was created by going test optional. On the financial aid front, \$14.18 million in aid was extended to the Class of 2025.

Ms. Bubble spoke about the admittance process, in which students received their notification electronically. Admitted students received a special box with a video message from President Casey. The Admissions team has also developed an admitted student website. There is enhanced content this year with themes for Enroll, Explore, Engage, and Succeed, and also information about COVID and how Colgate is handling the pandemic. Ms. Bubble spoke about how social media is a big part of the admitted student experience. Students are receiving email and connecting with other students. There is a limit to in-person visits this year, hence the virtual experience has been enhanced.

General Session

Susie Becker Gould '03, Alumni Council Vice President, opened the meeting by determining that there was a quorum. She then gave a recap of the winter meeting and said how glad the Alumni Council was to have had President Casey speak about the pandemic response, admission and advancement, and the Third Century Plan progress. Susie mentioned how great it was to see Colgate in the NCAA basketball tournament, and said that the Alumni Council will have the opportunity to talk to basketball players in future. The Entrepreneur of the year award will be presented on April 10 virtually. Watch mailboxes for a letter and copy of the Colgate Commitment brochure soon. There will be an announcement about the Colgate Commitment on June 1.

Executive Session

Andrew Roffe '68, Legal Counsel reviewed the Bylaws. Bylaw changes were proposed, mostly clarifications and tweaks. See changes that were shared in the document shared previously. Bylaw changes were approved.

Committee Chair and Vice Chair appointments were reviewed:

Academic Life Committee

Lauren D'Onofrio '82 (chair, replacing Beth DiCesare '05)

Alumni Engagement Committee

Emily Raiber Rodovic '02 (current chair, will continue as chair for 2021-2022) Kimberly Esmay Taylor '80 (vice chair)

Awards Committee

Tal-ee Roberts '01 (chair, replacing JonTiktinsky '82)

Campus Connection Committee

Bruce Ferguson '91 (current chair, will continue as chair for 2021-2022) Cara Lawler '05

Career Initiatives Committee

Paul Cascio '83 (chair, replacing Debra LoCastro '05)

Communications Committee

Christopher Nulty '09 (current chair, will continue as chair for 2021-2022)

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

James Speight '14 (chair, replacing Carlton Walker '10)

Nominations Committee

James Silas '06 (chair, replacing Lauri Curtis Hadobas '77) Lauri Curtis

Hadobas '77 will become VP on July 1, 2021

Charlie Parekh '97 (an approved alternate) will come onto the Alumni Council to fill the open At Large position vacated by Lauri on July 1, 2021.

Vice President's Report by Susie Becker Gould '03

There has been an extension for our Boombox project. The new deadline is April 30 (soft deadline for submissions will be April 26).

Transition from Chris Johnson '02 to Susie Becker Gould '03 as Alumni Council president on July 1, 2021. There will be a special meeting in late May to approve appointments to the Nominations committee.

Election Report by Becky Bye '02

Becky Bye reported that there is an uncontested election this year. The last time the election was contested was in 2016.

Alumni Trustee Report by Terry Egler '77

Board of Trustees is very active. The January 29 and 30 meeting included a special meeting for DE&I and countless committee meetings. The Colgate Together Challenge at the end of last year produced record results. There were updates given about the Third Century Plan, Arts and Innovation, the Mind, Brain, Behavior Initiative, and Residential Life. The trustees reviewed financial and capital models that will make this come to life, projecting costs, source of funding, and plan. While the current focus is on the middle campus, the lower campus has more of a sense of urgency and excitement.

The trustees spent time with advancement and campaign co-chairs about the emerging campaign, discussing the feasibility study being done to help identify the campaign goal. There was a celebration of Dan Benton's \$25 million gift for the middle campus (Benton Center).

The trustees spent time reviewing the *U.S. World and News* report ranking (Colgate dropped 17 to 20) and there was an analysis to determine why. While the overall score didn't change from the prior year, there was different weighting given to several key factors. Social mobility brought us down as did the outcomes from pell eligible students (low income students).

DE&I plan, how to support DE&I at Colgate, equality of students, faculty staff retention, campus climate, responsiveness. Made good progress working through key goals. BOT is introspective looking at responsibilities of DE&I at board level. Incoming nominating class had seven new candidates, five are filled with persons of color. 2022-23 two additional candidates will help to diversify. Retained outside firm for board engagement program. Charged to incorporate DE&I in all meetings. Chief diversity officer search was underway for six months, did not yield a candidate, engaged different search firm to undertake a search, hopeful to yield someone to further program in this area. Laura Jack will be serving as interim.

Thanks to Tom Dempsey as a retiring Alumni Trustee and for all of his involvement and leadership.

Treasurers Report by Chad Cooley '00

IRS filing 990 has been completed. Tom O'Neill filed report.

Report by Karl Clauss '90, Vice President of Advancement

Karl Clauss '90 gave the Alumni Council a report which included information about the posting of the Director of Alumni Relations position soon. Mr. Clauss recognized the work of the Alumni Relations staff during this transitional time. He thanked the Alumni Council and PCMC for their momentum and energy at this early stage of the Colgate Commitment, with the June 1 launch it will be important to have that momentum. Mr. Clauss discussed plans for 2021 commencement, as well as a preview of the busy spring expected next year which will include two commencement weekends and two reunion weekends. Mr.

Clauss reported on the successful fundraising efforts so far this year, with our annual athletics fundraising competition having come to a close. He also recognized the successful alumni engagement work around coeducation, DE&I, and virtual events overall that has led to a significant increase in the Alumni Engagement Index. He reported that campaign planning continues, led by Gretchen Burke '81 and Christine Chao '86. The quiet phase planning is continuing and we are hopeful to have a recommendation of scope and size soon.

Executive Secretary Report, Jen Stone

Ms. Stone spoke about the key drivers around alumni engagement this year, which has included a host of successful virtual programs around the professional networks, affinity & identity groups, regional clubs, co-education, athletics, and more. The Colgate Link now has over 1,000 students enrolled who are finding valuable mentorship and information from more than 3,400 alumni. We continue to develop ways to leverage this terrific tool to connect alumni and students.

Committee Reports

Academic Life Committee

Elizabeth DiCesare '05, chair, reported that the Academic Life Committee met with five of the faculty directors who provided a great overview of the commons. A partnership is being proposed between Alumni Council and the residential commons with goals going in both directions, serving students, helping alumni feel more connected. The proposal will enhance awareness and support of alumni, and help students connect with alumni. Two to three alumni liaisons for each commons, joining teams that already exists. This will include direct interaction, and indirect interaction (finding right alumni to support events, etc). Freshman seminars are linked with commons, Alumni Council can help think of events alumni can host. Opportunity for alumni to feed information back to the Alumni Council. For the pilot program for next year we need to identify interested alumni (current Alumni Council members, recent retired members, recent grads who were members of commons. Will build teams over the next few months.

Alumni Engagement Committee

Emily Raiber Radovic '02, chair, reported that the committee met on Monday, April 5 and discussed virtual events (ideas around May events). Also talked about partnership with PCMC overlap, Table for 13 virtual events, and the possibility of in-person events. Possible packages that people can order for in-person events. Reunion 2022, high number of alumni expected to attend. Will explore ways to celebrate all special anniversaries that will happen during that Reunion.

Awards Committee

Jon Tikitsky '82, chair, reported by Tal-ee Roberts '01. Tal-ee reported that the Awards Committee met on Monday, April 5 and discussed plans to recognize this year's recipients in absence of Reunion. Framed awards will be delivered later this summer. Plans to recognize 2020 and 2021 recipients at Reunion 2022 next spring. Thanks Jon for his work on the awards committee.

Campus Connections Committee

Bruce Ferguson '91, Chair, reported that the committee had assisted the current Konosioni (Senior Honor Society) group with a presentation to the alumni community to workshop a potential name change.

Career Initiatives Committee

Debra LoCastro '05, chair, reported that the Career Initiatives Committee hasn't met this spring as they were spending time reviewing summer funding applications. With almost 20 alumni council application reviewers the group was able to read through the 228 eligible applications. The pool had a high number of sophomore and junior applicants this year and based on reviewer feedback and scores, the applications overall were quite strong.

Career Services shared initial decisions with students on Friday, April 2. 125 students received a "Yes" decision, 35 students were put on the waitlist- meaning that their applications are worth funding but Career Services did not yet have

funds available, and 50 students received a "No" decision. 18 students withdrew from the process prior to decisions for positive reasons like accepting on-campus research or other similar funded opportunities.

As of today, 20 students remain on the waitlist. These students will be pulled up into our funded pool as new gifts and pledges come in. Again, the anticipated cost to fund student experiences this year is approximately \$4,000.

Teresa and her team are working on a few core initiatives that will be the thrust of their time over the next few months. There may be some good insertion points for the Council within those, which Paul will help them think through on behalf of the CI Committee.

Communications Committee

Christopher Nulty '09, chair, reported that the Communications Committee met earlier this month. They talked about communication and marketing about Reunion 2022, how to generate interest, but keep it manageable and how to balance that. Also talked about better utilization of the Colgate Link, make sure people are using it, find out how they are using it. Do quick training at the next Alumni Council meeting so everyone knows how to use it. Students are embracing it, alumni need to be using it too.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

James Speight '14 as vice chair reported that DE&I reported that at the last meeting of DE&I he was brought on as vice chair. James has been active with PCMC, part of AOC and partnership for racial progress, he has a wide range of experience for this position. Training was discussed. The committee wants to make sure that everyone has a similar foundation for DE&I, with books, videos, documentaries that the group can engage in. So that everyone enters the conversation with similar vernacular. How to weave in DE&I efforts with other committees and measure that we are taking action. First generation students sometimes get lost in the shuffle, see how to include that community in initiatives.

Nominations Committee

Lauri Hadobas '77, chair, reported that the committee's work was mainly done in the summer. There was a lot of work in regard to alternates and work will commence this summer once again.

Annual Meeting will be on June 4, 2021

- The Colgate Commitment: Access & Affordability
- Director Retirements
- Open Discussion