The scheduled mini-reunion meeting of the Class of 1962 was called to order by President Alan Rapoport at 10:00 AM EDT on October 1, 2016, at The Black Visual Arts Center, Dartmouth College.

Travel problems kept Treasurer Charlie Balch from being in Hanover. Jay Pearson presented Charlie’s report confirming that our finances are in good shape. Between our general funds checking account and our dues collection lockbox we have just over $62,000. The 1962 Faculty Fellowship Endowment, to which we contributed just over $352,000, now has a market value of almost $1.1 million. The 1962 Writing & Rhetoric Endowment (WARE) to which we contributed $1.2 million now has endowment market value of almost $1.5 million. The amounts reported for the two endowments are as of August 31, 2016. They currently are expected to distribute about 5% interest for their intended annual purposes.

Head Agent John Schiffman and his leadership group are at work on our Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) goal for this our 55th Reunion year and the means to achieve it. We have agreed to establish as part of our goal the Class of 1962 Writing-Speech Portfolio Project. In simple terms the Project will work with the College Writing and Rhetoric program to help students learn how to digitize their portfolios of qualifications and work for use with applications to graduate schools and potential employers. We will get DCF Class credit for all funds contributed to the Project.

The College will make it easier for donors to allocate donations. Specifically, College solicitations sent to us for DCF will contain a description of the Portfolio Project and will allow donors to designate distribution of donations between the Project and DCF. The mailings will suggest 80% to DCF and 20% to the Project, but Classmates will be free to make any allocation they wish. John and his leadership group expect to set our overall dollar goal for the current year by November or December.

Steve Reid who heads up College Gift Planning for the Class was not present but Alan spoke briefly on his behalf. Gift Planning seeks designation of Dartmouth in estate planning documents such as wills and trusts. Those who designate Dartmouth in such documents, regardless of the size of the gift (which need not even be revealed), become members of the Bartlett Tower Society. More information will be forthcoming.

Vice-President Richard Hannah, Secretary Paul Weinberg and John Walters gave brief observations of happenings on the campus. All three particularly noted Dartmouth’s establishment this year of a new residential cluster concept. The College seems much more committed to this concept than previous efforts somewhat along the same lines (the 1958 “new” dorms of Little, Bissel, Brown and Cohen and the later so-called River Cluster). Dormitories
are grouped into six clusters known as houses. Once a student becomes a member of a house he/she remains a member of that house regardless of any change of campus domicile (be it dormitory, off-campus apartment or residential Greek house). House membership, with residential faculty advisors/participants, is intended to be a bridge bringing house members together intellectually, athletically and socially. House identification begins at matriculation and is intended to continue throughout the student’s academic years and beyond, into alumni status.

The house system is intended to provide student cohesiveness and a sense of belonging for a student body significantly larger than in our day. Pretty clearly to some of us it is also intended to provide an attractive and strong alternative to the Greek system. Paul speculated on the possibility it will also further negatively impact class cohesion which began with the Dartmouth Plan and the roughly 33% increase in the size of the undergraduate student body which accompanied it. Significant amounts of money and great effort are being put into this new residential program and, as John put it, this time it seems to have legs.

Class Newsletter Editor Al Huck briefly commented that he continues to seek Classmates who are ready to switch to receipt of the electronically distributed version of the Newsletter in place of the printed snail mail version. He notes it’s not a significant issue of cost. Rather the electronic version is more entertaining for its all color photographs rather than the black and white in the print version. Certainly distribution and receipt is much faster. Over 100 Classmates now decline the print version in favor of the electronic one.

1962 Faculty Fellowship. Dan Tomkins reviewed the process for selecting each year’s Faculty Fellow and reminded all that the aim of the fellowship program is to keep alive the tradition of good teaching at Dartmouth that we experienced. This year’s Class of 1962 Faculty Fellow is Paul Musslewhite of the History Department. We will meet and hear from him at our Class dinner tonight.

Our new Alumni Councilor Woody Chittick is just starting to get into his new duties. He solicits Classmates to advise him of issues they believe should be addressed. Then he will report on meetings.

Gene Gasbarro reported on his efforts to be a liaison and strengthen contacts with the Class of 2012, the ones with whom we marched at their commencement and our 50th Reunion celebration. With closer contact and perhaps sharing of some common time during reunions in Hanover, we might somewhat mentor them as a Class. Perhaps as we age and move on they might find an interest in keeping some of our Class projects going. Gene’s job is not an easy one. He reports the ‘12s are not very cohesive and among themselves have little communication except on a personal, one on one basis. Our reunions in 2017 will not overlap so we will not have that opportunity in Hanover to share some relaxing time together.

Webmaster Peter Knight gave us a brief demonstration of his Google Earth ’62 site. It’s a rather phenomenal site which among other feats allows one to scan the globe and locate Classmates living in various locations with contact details readily available.
Secretary Paul Weinberg led a brief discussion outlining some of the problems with getting information and writing obituaries for deceased Classmates. This will be dealt with further within the Executive Committee but one thing to bring to the attention of all: whenever any Dartmouth grad reads a local newspaper obituary of the death of another grad of any class, not just ’62, send either a hard copy or an electronic copy of the obituary to Alumni Records. Although the College subscribes to services constantly scanning the nation’s papers for news of Dartmouth people, including obituaries, they don’t always catch all of them. When they don’t, it can sometimes be years before word catches up. [Secretary’s later addendum on this subject: the current point of contact for sending local newspaper obituaries is Michelle.L.Brown@dartmouth.edu.]

55th Reunion Co-Chair Dick Brooks reminded all that our 55th will be a mid-week reunion for the first time, June 12-15, 2017. Those who plan to stay at private commercial operations need to get started now locking in their reservations. For all others information will be forthcoming about reserving space in the dormitories the College will be providing. Word is that we again will have dormitory rooms with private bathing facilities in the same cluster we’ve stayed in before across from Alumni Gym. Anyone with ideas as to what programming they would like to see put on for the reunion should get in touch with Dick or Co-Chair Bill Pierce.

Co-Tripmeister Tom Komarek hopes by April or May to have firmed up plans for a 2018 Class trip and to announce it at the 55th Reunion in June. Under consideration are a Mississippi River cruise on a relatively small ship starting or ending in New Orleans and a tour of National Parks in the southwest U.S.

In his capacity as Nominating Committee Chair Tom said that he and his committee of John Walters, Josh Rich and Mike Howard at the June reunion will present a slate of nominees for Class officers to lead us forward to the 60th reunion.

Alan announced the next Executive Committee Teleconference meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2017 at 11:00 AM ET (8:00 AM PT). The next Class meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2017, in Hanover at our 2017 mini-reunion. Unlike this year that will be the same weekend as Dartmouth Homecoming with the traditional parade and bonfire.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Weinberg
Secretary