

Rocky Mountain Harvard University Club
Minutes of Steering Committee Meeting, 11 February 2015

Present: Tracey Smith, Srinidhi Reddy, John Griffin, Christina Gomez, Fred Ris, Phil Weintraub, JK Costello, Eric Eversly

Excused: Tracey Smith, Steve Kregstein, Vincent Oletu

Srinidhi calls the meeting to order at 6:45!

1) Preliminary

- a) Tracey regrets she cannot attend.
 - b) Hello, guest Ed Field.
 - c) Agenda adopted.
 - d) Personal matters: John's daughter is getting married to a guy who is 1st in his class at MIT. They will live in Back Bay and he will walk to school. She works at Bain Capital. John has no serious objections to him. Planning May shindig to celebrate.
- JK submitted an editorial to Wash Post, awaiting approval.

2) Consent agenda: 1/14 minutes adopted.

3) Financial report from Christina: January slow, some GNN expenses \$251 (per Fred). Fred and Christina will close out some minor year-end things. The report was circulated via email. So adopted.

4) Past events

- a) Early admit reception, 17th Jan. 7 students attended with varying degrees of parental supervision. Many of them know each other already, they have an FB group. Harvard attributes record number of applicants to social media campaign. Likely cost: \$60 or so. Good interaction. Attended by Miles, Fred, and two alumni who are also the parents of admitted students.
- 4b) ALC. Fred and JK attended. Met with regional club leaders, early college awareness (Eric has a lot of experience with this). (Note for me: find college fair opportunities far in advance) Keynote speaker
- 4c) Speaker series—20 in attendance, went off without a hitch. \$30 for refreshments, around \$60 for room rental. Next: Peter Hanson or Ron Faleide.

5) Upcoming events

a) Young alum event at Punch Bowl Social at 1st and Broadway for March 5th. Probably around 5:30 to avoid crowds. (Srinidhi)

b) Serving lunch to the homeless 1 April. (Christina) Looking for other volunteer opportunities for month of service but she has little free time to plan things.

c) Andrew Berry April 17th. (Tracey *in absentia*) Concern over price range for event; should we do full dinner or apps only? There is a lot of uncertainty over format. If the price is:

Hypothetical \$50 a person—5/8 in attendance would go and eat, but it is decided that we need a good turnout to keep from displeasing Cambridge.

Precedents: Santa Barbara, \$55, SoCal, \$50-60, Miami, \$48, Nevada, ??

Decided: What we need from Tracey: \$25 option. **No more than \$30**. Graduated pricing-- \$30 for first 50 signups or prior to April 10th more for week of event or after 50th. We will subsidize the first 50 if the actual cost is in excess of \$30. Can we invite admitted students? Their parents? Need financial commitment from club or individuals to support this.

Possible schedule:

5:30 New admits socializing with Dr. Berry.

6:15-7 Members showDrinks (cash bar) and socializing.

7:00 dinner buffet

7:45 talk. Have students come earlier to spend time with Dr. Berry. Food then talk.

Market as discussion, not lecture.

Need to decide:: Cost. Time. Format. Marketing.

8e) Insurance. At \$700 per year, consensus to purchase gen. liability. The necessity of directors' insurance is uncertain, though.

6a) NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Watch Party. First game is March 15th, although it is not certain that Harvard will make it. Prospects look good. Phil and Eric will write/cite something and give Srinidhi/Fred the text to post to website and FB and get this on people's radars. Eric proposes that we should normalize watch parties for any nationally-televised Harvard sporting event. This proposal is roundly approved.

8d) Prize book. Fred has identified 9 schools that have few recent applicants but promising PSAT scores. See his email dated 2/11/15 for more details of schools. There is much discussion about this, but not much is resolved; people support the awarding, but logistics are needed including school approval and alumni representation at the award ceremonies.

At 8:35 the meeting adjourns.

Next meeting: March 11 (Christina food)