

RMHUC Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2011
Daniels Fund Building

In attendance:

Fred Ris – President
Diana Lawrence – Treasurer
Mike Durall – Secretary
Molly Theolosen – Communications/Facebook

John Griffin – Schools & Scholarship
Babette Greenwell - Spokermaster

Doug Henston
Eric Eversley
Steve Kregstein
Phil Weintraub
Peter Hanson
Anna Jones
Ed Field

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 PM.
2. Minutes of the August 3 meeting were approved unanimously.
3. Regarding finances, Fred reported that RMHUC is in a good financial position currently, due to new memberships, which may be a one-time occurrence. The members reviewed the most recent bank statement, profit and loss statement, and balance sheet.
4. Calendar review. Attendees reviewed the updated schedule of meetings and events.
5. Schools committee. John brought members up to date on an appreciation event for interviewers, for approximately 20-40 people. He also mentioned that letters to current and potential interviewers were recently mailed. Of particular note is a possible upcoming visit of Jennifer Gandy from Harvard's admissions office sometime this fall.
6. Alumni Magnet software program. Fred expressed considerable frustration regarding the design of the site and the difficulties in working with the vendor. Some progress is being made, as Douglas has contracted with GoDaddy for e-mail accounts. Nevertheless, RMHUC hopes to "go live" by the end of this month.
7. Social networking. Molly handed out some very useful stats from Facebook "hits." Currently, we pay from \$30-50 per month for the Harvard ad, and the results from this ad being online.

8. Events. We reviewed the attendance figures and comments from the Annual Meeting submitted by attendees. There was some discussion about posting photos online with a link, along with some concern about privacy issues of online photos. Members agreed to pay the \$873 cost for valet parking at the event, even though the Halaby's had offered to do so.

9. Speaker's series. Babette reported that the event with Chris Gates was scheduled for September 29, and that e-mail blast(s) will continue to remind people of this date. There was considerable discussion regarding the frequency of speakers (monthly or semi-monthly). The consensus was for more frequent speakers, possibly in conjunction with the Yale and Stanford clubs.

10. Harvard-Yale football game. Phil talked with the manager of Chopper's bar about this fall's game, and we may be able to reserve the entire restaurant, with a minimum attendance of 60.

11. Logos. Diana reviewed the use of Mount Harvard photos for the website and for various uses such as thank you cards or gifts. RMHUC would have to check with Cambridge regarding copyright permission. Anna, Babette, Diana, Ed, Fred, and Molly will follow up.

12. How RMHUC conducts business. Fred mentioned, and referred to a written summary, of the ways the Club addresses major issues, such as: being more visible, more effective communications, and ongoing programs. It was agreed that many issues could be addressed by smaller sub-groups rather than the Steering Committee as a whole.

13. Cash on hand. Fred recommended moving approximately \$20,000 in cash to a series of laddered CD's. A sub-group will discuss and make recommendations. Some concern was expressed about tying up money for too long a maturation period. Ed, Diana, and Fred will review options.

14. Membership. There was a continuation of the discussion about the Club's value proposition – a set of points that articulate why graduates would find RMHUC interesting and useful. Five people agreed to be on a sub-group to discuss and report. Following up will be Babette, Diana, Ed, Mike, Fred, Molly, and Steve Kregstein.

Mike brought up the interesting/irrelevant issue of whether RMHUC should occasionally use Alumni/ae in communications to Harvard graduates.

15. CLIMB. Anna provided an update and discussed the purpose and value of CLIMB. There was considerable discussion about the uncertain financial obligations of RMHUC, and whether the Club had any other options. Anna and Fred will discuss and report back.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM. Next meeting, September 28, from 6:30 to 8:30, at the Daniels Fund building.