

Rocky Mountain Harvard University Club  
Minutes of Steering Committee meeting, 11 March 2015

Present: Eric Eversley, Christina Gomez, Fred Ris, Tracey Smith, Phil Weintraub

Excused: JK Costello, Srinidhi Reddy

Absent: John Griffin

Guest: Ed Field

President Tracey Smith called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM

The Consent Agenda (JK Costello's February 11 minutes) was approved.

Following a light discussion, treasurer Christina Gomez's financial for February report was accepted.

Tracey Smith elaborated on her report from the 2015 Alumni Leadership Conference (previously distributed). Highlights:

- Some small- and medium-sized clubs hire administrators at a rate of \$10-\$15 per hour. This is worth some future discussion.
- Most clubs seem to have at least two tiers of membership levels above a basic level. Some have several more. [Alumni Magnet makes this quite easy to administer.] It is important to offer perks for the higher-level memberships; they are meaningful to people whether or not they actually use them.
- A number of clubs have more extensive recent graduate membership structure than we do, although these typically are in the form of a dues reduction.
- The Western Pennsylvania (basically Pittsburgh) Club has a well-produced, eight-page annual newsletter with events laid out for a 15-month period each fall. Their cover letter, which solicits membership dues, is personalized with nine-years' of contribution history in various categories.
- A couple of clubs organize "Alternative Spring Break" service projects in their communities for students. This is particularly attractive to foreign students who are not inclined to travel home for just a week.
- The Alabama Club runs an annual large dinner lecture series they call "Trail Blazers". The series is in honor of a Harvard professor who grew up in the region.
- One approach to succession planning used by the Toronto Club is to have co-presidents, each with a two-year term, the terms staggered.
- Some clubs run breakfast or lunch series with speakers who are local CEOs (could also do Deans, etc.).
- The Early College Awareness Program needs to be on a future agenda when JK Costello is also present to discuss.

JK Costello's ALC report (previously distributed) was not discussed. Nor was Fred Ris's (yet to be submitted).

The Young Alumni event on March 12<sup>th</sup> was lacking a "host". No resolution at the meeting.

The Harvard-Yale playoff game to determine which school goes to the NCAA Tournament is scheduled on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> at 2PM at Chopper's. Phil Weintraub has things in hand.

Ron Faleide's talk in the Speaker Series is scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30.

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The next “Soup Kitchen” event on April 1<sup>st</sup> has 14 volunteers, even ahead of Christina Gomez’s letter to the regulars.

Andrew Berry’s faculty lecture on April 17<sup>th</sup> is progressing. Twenty-eight reservations have already been received; the combination of early-bird pricing and member priority is doing what it’s meant to – three new memberships were obtained along the way.

Eric Eversley had made an initial contact with the director of the Aurora Community Connection for a potential Global Month of Service project. However, they are not used to one-off work groups, and so the discussions have stalled.

JK Costello had asked for ratification of June 9 for Peter Hanson’s talk in the Speaker Series. Although that is the day before the June Steering Committee meeting, this was not felt to be an impediment, so the date is ratified.

The Member/Volunteer Appreciation event remains in limbo.

Fred Ris reported for the Schools Committee that all Class of 2019 interviews were completed, the Ranking Meeting was held on March 7<sup>th</sup> and concluded with specific recommendations to the Admissions Office, and an Admits Reception is being developed for April 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>, the prior weekend containing both Easter and the first days of Passover. It is also hoped to combine an interviewer recognition event with training for the Class of 2020 in the early summer. It appears that four Prize Book awards will be made this spring.

Tracey Smith announced that she had just been notified that the Harvard Glee Club is hoping to make a Spring Break tour in 2016 covering Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado. Our assistance will be required for the latter, particularly around housing.

Tracey Smith reported that the third iteration of the “Ivy+ Career Fair” had once again approached the Club for support. We had turned them down the first two times because it appeared to be a profit-making event with insufficiently transparent financial arrangements, and they have been turned down again this year. Tracey asked that the “record reflect” these considerations. This record so reflects.

Future meetings and food volunteers:

- April 8 (Eric)
- May 13 (Tracey)
- June 10 (JK to be solicited)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Fred Ris