

Good Afternoon Former Council Members:

Enclosed you will find a summary of the recent Alumni Council meeting held on campus Thursday, October 16-Saturday, October 18, 2014.

1. Council members interacted with student leaders from the Student Government Association (SGA), Student Alumni Council (SAC), and Multicultural Leadership Council (MLC) during a Thursday evening dessert reception and over dinner on Friday evening at Quad Dining Hall;
2. The Council welcomed its six new members to their first meeting: **Mary Knuth Otto '63, John "Fritz" Schwaller '69, Rhonda Stuart '86, Jim Asplund '88, Allison Brinkhorst '11, and Ahsan Rahim '11;**
3. **Shane Jacobson**, vice president for development and alumni relations, addressed the Council and provided updates regarding the Office of Development and Alumni Relations 2014-15 business plan and the fundraising and engagement strategies specific to the upcoming ARH and Carnegie renovation project;
4. The Council was introduced to the new Dean of the College **Mike Latham**, who made a presentation entitled, "Grinnell and the Forefront of Teaching" which highlighted:
 - Strategy 2 (Teaching and Learning) of the College's Strategic Plan focusing on re-envisioning the commitment to liberal education and continuing the commitment to innovative, student-centered liberal arts curriculum that prepares students to be successful in their lives after Grinnell;
 - Strategy 3 (The Grinnell Learning Place) of the Plan, regarding the need for learning spaces that encourage collaboration, creativity, and inquiry, and reinforce the idea that the learning space is an integral part of imparting knowledge and enhances the academic, social, and environmental success of the Grinnell community;
 - A proposed framework for the ambitious vision for the renovated ARH and Carnegie spaces and how they will be used to position Grinnell at the forefront of teaching and learning at liberal arts colleges in the country;
 - Innovative teaching approaches, including the Digital Liberal Arts, undergraduate research, interdisciplinary curricula, and international education, which build on Grinnell's strong programs. Dean Latham provided examples of the digital liberal arts in use on Grinnell's campus and at other institutions. He shared descriptions of some of those courses and of approaches to interdisciplinarity and curricular innovation that he has experienced.
5. **Lilliana Bagnoli '15**, Student Alumni Council Philanthropy Chair, and **Austin Cote '15**, Student Alumni Council Vice-President, reported on the work of the Student Alumni Council this academic year, including the launch of the Class Ambassadors' partnership with SGA and the reimagined Stephen Kent '67 Senior Class Gift campaign. New materials were shared which outline SAC's new philosophy regarding philanthropy education on campus and the use of the "4 T's:" time, talent, treasure and ties;
6. Member **Saurabh Saraf '05** led the Council in a review of the recommendations put forth by the ad-hoc Council committee formed following the March development workshop. The Council

discussed and reached resolution on a number of improvements to Council structure, composition, governance, and new member orientation;

7. The Council members extended thanks and appreciation to **Bonnie Primley**, alumni relations assistant, for her 20 years of service to Grinnell College and the Council. President **Susan Henken-Thielen '80** and President Elect **Ed Senn '79** presented Bonnie with a GC clock, gift certificate, and numerous letters of appreciation from past and current Council members;
8. Council members heard an overview on the progress of the College's Institutional Identity Project with Crane MetaMarketing from **Jim Reische**, vice president of communications;
9. Standing Committee chairs **Jim Decker '75** (communications), **Lara Szent-Gyorgi '89** (stewardship), **Peter Calvert '75** (alumni-student connections) and **Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94** (alumni engagement) discussed the ongoing work of their committees to strengthen and improve alumni relations and development with the College;
10. Past President **Nancy Maly '61** presented the slate of candidates for receipt of a 2015 Alumni Award. The Council approved the Awards' committee recommendations. A public announcement of the recipients will follow in early 2015;
11. Based on an informative presentation by a past Council member, **Mary Brooner '71**, the Council adopted a resolution expressing support for comprehensive consideration of accessibility and usability issues as part of the upcoming ARH/Carnegie renovation project as well as for future projects;
12. Council members dined informally on Saturday evening with select faculty guests and joined Reunion 2015 class committee volunteers for a party at the home of Council President Nancy Maly '61 and Allan Maly.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. Our thanks for your continued interest in the work of the Council.

Warm Regards,

Jayn Chaney '05, director of alumni relations
Susan Henken-Thielen '80, alumni council president