

# **Meeting Minutes**

## **Cornell Alumni Association of Greater Rochester, Inc.**

### **Board Meeting**

January 6, 2010

7:34 PM – 8:49 PM

At: Victor, NY

#### Attendance

Board and Committee members: Jack Clarcq, Thomas Helfrich, Sharon Cassidy, Chris Cassidy, Lois Niland, Lawrence Wetzal and William McCarthy

Others Present: None

This Board Meeting of the Cornell Alumni Association of Greater Rochester, Inc. (“Club”) was called to order by President J. Clarcq. He welcomed those attending this evening’s meeting.

President J. Clarcq noted that Alex Chernavsky had sent around a January 2, 2010 email resigning from the Board. The Board accepted the resignation with regret, noting that he had been active in the Club, on the Board and in many ways for quite some time. There was a discussion about if we could or should appoint someone for his remaining term. J. Clarcq said he would ask the Nominating Committee to start its work earlier and act regarding staggered terms. It was agreed that J. Clarcq will contact the current head of the Cornell Cooperative Extension’s Rochester office William Wynne to determine if he would like to just sit-in at this point, and that the actual appointment could be discussed in the Nominating Committee.

President J. Clarcq reported on several matters, including Cornell University’s recent communications, participation in their new alumni program, local dues and upcoming training.

1. There is nothing new from J. Cunningham (Cornell Alumni staff) or Cornell Admissions regarding the Club’s concerns about Cornell’s decision not to participate in any college fairs. There has not been any answer to the letter J. Clarcq had written at the Board’s direction to the head of Admissions.
2. The CAAAN Committee did not have a formal report. It is understood that there was a desire to do student “interviews” in groups and to get them more information. Fairport High School had said yes, but then changed their mind.

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S. Cassidy said that the deadline for the Club's annual Essay Contest for students is January 29, 2010. So far, she has received almost 100 essays, from Gates-Chili, Penfield and other high schools. Penfield is a new participant this year. Most essays arrive in January. The essays will be circulated anonymously to readers in batches of 5 or 10, along with grading guidelines. Each essay will be read by one reader, with the better scoring essays read by an additional two readers. The essay with the best score will win. We definitely need more readers so we can spread out the workload.

C. Cassidy had emailed the Membership Committee's January 2, 2010 Report of 2009-2010 Membership Statistics. As of December 31, 2009, we had received 74 paid membership forms, which resulted in 19 new members and 55 renewed members, with \$1,214 in dues payments and \$835 in scholarship donations. Only 50% of the Board have paid their dues to the Club. We have picked-up in numbers compared to the last report, but continue to be lower in membership than historically.

Several items on the current 2009-2010 event schedule were reviewed. Reporting for the Committee, Committee, L. Niland and others said:

1. T. Helfrich indicated that our covering the WXXI 11/30/09 fundraising call-in went well. Some 10-11 Cornellians participated that evening. This time, Cornell covered the entire evening's phonebank, and WXXI avoided the annoyances that occurred in 2008 when another group unexpectedly covered half of the evening.
2. The 11/23/09 Cornell-Penn luncheon had a great speaker. Penn was the host this year (so it will presumably be Cornell's turn next year. Attendance was down from previous years, but still decent. There was an incident during the program with an attendee exhibiting some odd behavior, but it was handled so that it did not spoil the talk or event.

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3. Only 2 people are known to have gone to the Cornell vs. Clarkson game, but some 15 attended the Cornell vs. New Hampshire game.
4. The 1/9/10 Founders' Day Luncheon has 48 reservations (including 7 students), with a maximum 60 seats available in the room.
5. We still need a volunteer to Chair the 2/21/10 Family Event Orkidstra at Hochstein. Otherwise, we may have to cancel the event.
6. We will be getting a block of tickets for the 2/27/10 Cornell vs. Penn basketball game. We probably will not be doing a meal this time.
7. There continues to be a problem getting a firm date from Cornell University for the May, 2010 Faculty Speaker Series. Cornell will not tell us until 4-6 weeks before the event date, which creates a real problem for us. The Club wants and needs more notice so we can properly plan and promote the event. Last year, we had 150+ attendees, including lots of people from outside the "normal" Cornell community. We hope to hold it at the Colgate Rochester School campus.
8. The Accepted Students Social is currently scheduled for 5/20/10, at 7:00 PM at a private home, but J. Clarcq will contact K. Myers to try to get it moved into April.
9. We will again hold the Club's Annual Meeting in conjunction with our June baseball event at Frontier Field. R. Lanzafame will again be the Chair.

There was a further discussion about the January 29-31, 2010 Cornell Alumni Leadership Conference, to be held in Washington, DC. It was noted that P. Schwartz, from Rochester, will be getting an Award. (He has been very active in Club activities, most recently regarding the Rochester Connection November, 2009 program.) T. Cummings is going. L. Niland is awaiting an answer on the stipend. It was agreed that the Club would pay (only) up to \$300 toward the expense for one active Cornell Club Board member to attend. Or the amount could be split amongst up to two people. Anyone who is interested should talk to President J. Clarcq.

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M. Argiropoulos had previously distributed the Statement of Cash Flows for 7/1/09 through 1/4/2010, which showed \$12,776 in income, \$14,167 in expenses, \$2,548 due to the Scholarship Fund, and a current operating balance of \$9,649.

J. Clarcq said the Club needs, as a result of all the changes, to do a budget for the last six months of its 2009-2010 fiscal year. He will set-up a meeting (possibly 1/16/2010) involving himself, S, Cassidy, M. Argiropoulos, and any other interested/available Board members to prepare a draft budget proposal. We want to be sure that events do not unexpectedly lose money and therefore we need to track more income and expense detail.

The Meeting Minutes of the Club's November 4, 2009 Board Meeting had not yet been distributed. Once they are, any corrections should be brought to the attention of Secretary T. Helfrich, to be discussed at a future Board meeting if consequential. Otherwise, without objection, in accordance with previous actions of the Board, those Meeting Minutes will be deemed approved unanimously on a motion duly made and seconded. Minutes from Board and Annual Meetings continue to be available for reading upon request.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, at 7:30 PM, and will tentatively be hosted by L. Niland. N. Nocon, the Club's investment advisor, will attend to discuss the endowment and investments, including possible investment guidelines for the Club's account(s). Other Agenda items will include the results of the budget meeting, affirmation of the Club's indemnification of Board members in accordance with that section of the By-Laws, and possible program ideas for next year.

Future Board meetings are thereafter currently scheduled for May 5 and June 2, 2010, per the Schedule distributed by the President.

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There being no other business to come before the Meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas G. Helfrich  
Secretary

Attachments: As Distributed Previously & at Meeting