

"I have studied at four institutions of higher learning, but my loyalty remains strongest to Dartmouth. Why? In large part because Dartmouth, in contrast to the other three, keeps me involved as a voting alumni having some effect on the future direction of the college. Please keep it that way."

— Justice Tom Parker '73
Alabama Supreme Court

"I realize that these events [5 straight defeats in alumni elections] must be frustrating to many of the Trustees and certainly to the College's Administration, but suggest that a better response than an alteration of the rules would be to listen to and try to understand the reasoning and motivation of those who keep electing dissident (if that is the right word) trustees ... This has nothing to do with politics or ideology; there is no conservative or liberal position on this issue that I can discern. For me, it is simply a matter of Dartmouth realizing her highest potential."

— Hon. Angus King '66
Governor of Maine (1995-2003)

"I think the President (who is akin to the CEO of a corporation) should resign from the Committee and recuse himself from their deliberations. These steps would be required of any corporation regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission [or] the New York Stock Exchange, and by ordinary up-to-date ethics."

— Charles J. Urstadt '49

"Even though the write-in campaigns for trustees have been described as a 'conservative' or 'right-wing' phenomenon, I do not view it this way. I am a registered Democrat and have voted for Democratic party candidates ... I have voted for [Dartmouth] petition candidates because they offered a different perspective than the one of the administration."

— Peter Mancoll '97

"Why in the world would you want to create an 'Enron Board' (a rubber stamp to those running daily operations)? That did not work out well. You absolutely need independent alumni participation on the Board."

— Robert K. Sproull '57

"Any change to the present arrangements which has the effect of diluting alumni representation is, and will clearly be seen to be, an extremely bad idea. It will be recognized as an anti-democratic, insider power play that will alienate a majority of the alumni ... It is, in a word, desperate."

— Stephen Horvath '65, T'66

"Regardless of origin, this effort is designed to ensure that no diversity of opinion exists."

— Stuart L. Richards '63

"I have contributed every year since my graduation to Dartmouth. I would not doubt curtail my giving or cut it back substantially if I learn that the election process has been abandoned."

— Robert M. Helsell '59

"Do the Administration and the Board of Trustees hold Dartmouth's alumni in such contempt that they will try by duplicity and deception to accomplish what they could not by well-funded persuasion and honest election? How very, very sad."

— W. Bruce MacKenzie,
Ph.D., M.A. '58

"President Wright should resign for actions inimical to Dartmouth and alienation of her alumni. As for me, I am putting a hold on the bequest that had been intended. If you do not want the input of the alumni, then you should not expect our financial support."

— Bob Sanders '60

"The Dartmouth Administration and Alumni have both fared well for the past 116 years under the 1891 agreement. It would be a shame to mess it up with another administration power grab over the alumni ... This type of behavior we can expect from the mafia and from third world dictators like Hugo Chavez in Venezuela and Mugabe in Zambia. Stay with the 1891 agreement and stop bickering and fighting with the alumni."

— Ain H. Kivimae '60

"I do not understand why there is such a persistent effort on behalf of President Wright and some Trustees to alter or manipulate Dartmouth's current rules of governance ... I suspect President Wright and [Board] Chairman Haldeman need better advisors."

— Kim Bangash '91

"For over 100 years, Dartmouth alumni and alumnae have enjoyed the assurance of direct input into the selection of one-half of the Trustees. This is part of what we expect as members of the Dartmouth family. We deserve nothing less."

— Nancy Zhao '07

"Recent experience in the corporate world, best illustrated by the Enron debacle, shows the catastrophic results when Boards of Directors do not provide independent oversight."

— William King '56

"Enron and other recent corporate scandals show the disastrous results that can happen when a chief executive has a rubber-stamp board ... I am fundamentally opposed to any change in how Trustees are selected to the structure of the Board of Trustees. I urge you not to take any actions that would threaten the 116 year-old partnership between Dartmouth and her loyal alumni."

— David Flitner '55

"The proposed governance changes concern me ... I don't support what you're doing, and it will impact my future contributions to the College."

— Robert M. Birge '92

"If the composition of the Board of Trustees is changed after five consecutive votes of no confidence, I will vow never to give a dollar to Dartmouth. Granted, I am just one person, but I know of many people who feel the same way."

— Nicholas A. Tonelli '06

Dartmouth College Trustees: Learn From Wall Street

In this age of Sarbanes-Oxley and corporate transparency, can you imagine a CEO trying to wrest control of a multi-billion-dollar Board from his shareholders? At one Ivy League college, that's just what is happening.

Dartmouth College president James Wright is using his seat on the Board of Trustees to rewrite the rules covering the selection of the Trustees themselves—the men and women to whom he reports.

Wall Street doesn't tolerate such conflicts of interest. The Ivy League shouldn't either.

Dartmouth alumni are standing up for a 116-year-old agreement giving them the right to independently elect one-half of the Trustees. The current Board may dilute or completely eliminate this right as soon as September 7.



"The election of trustees allows alumni like myself, who cannot be a part of Dartmouth's day-to-day life anymore, an opportunity to remain part of its community. I encourage you to preserve this venerable old tradition."

— Christine Schott '05

"Pres. Wright seems intent on having the Board in his pocket so he can rule his kingdom as he sees fit. Disenfranchisement of the Alumni will be his final victory and the ruin of Dartmouth. Fire Wright!"

— Joe Lane '57

"I like Dartmouth's unique participatory democracy ... I don't like the idea of being relegated to the status of second-class citizen and I don't like being asked to help support, financially, concepts and policies in which I have no direct input. (I think we fought a war over something similar to this about 231 years ago! They called it taxation without representation.)"

— L. Joseph Jacquet '58

"If my voice is silenced my pocketbook shall remain closed—despite my fondness for Dartmouth."

— Wallace B. Eldridge III '63

"Rather than fear the alumni, the Trustees and administration should appreciate what a committed alumni can do for the College. If you do, you may find participation in fundraising return to the 65%-70% that Dartmouth once enjoyed."

— William H. Howe '66

"Dartmouth will thrive if given the sunlight of good governance. It is unreasonable to suggest that a self-selecting governance body that includes executive management of the college will be open and objective."

— Bill Huber '83

"Recent trustee elections and the vote on the Alumni Constitution have been clear. They have shown that a majority of alumni don't buy the party line. Now you are creating a committee to deal with many of the same issues that we have already voted on. Why? ... [So] that you can do what you wanted to do all along and so you can ignore our votes."

— John M. Pasquesi '81

"Our College would not be well-served by an insider committee appointing only those who would go along with whatever fads or whims that they would wish to propagate."

— Michael H. Biggs '54

"Part of Dartmouth's identity is inextricably bound up in its relationship with its graduates. Diluting our voices is unacceptable. It is essential that Dartmouth College guarantee its alumni and alumnae a vote in choosing one-half of its Trustees."

— Andrew Eastman '07

"I, for one, have cut off all contributions to Dartmouth until it puts in place and abides by a fair, competitive, and transparent Trustee election process which included at least one-half alumni. Who do you think is giving that \$39 million you just trumpeted in the mailing I received today? It is time to wake up and smell the coffee."

— F. Marian Chambers '76

"I am strongly in favor of maintaining the present system of electing Trustees, and I am astonished at the clumsy attempt to misrepresent the long-standing arrangement by the College administration."

— George W. Rutler '65

"The efforts of the administration and their allies on the Board of Trustees to disenfranchise the Dartmouth College alumni are disgraceful."

— Gonzalo Lira '95

"The actions by President Wright and the insider camp on the board of trustees are a power grab by a self-important group of individuals who think they have a monopoly on the right ideas. This behavior gives me newfound respect for another coupster, Hugo Chavez. At least he is willing to speak the truth of his undemocratic intentions."

— David Gates '01

"[T]rustees who would reduce or eliminate alumni seats risk alienation of Dartmouth's most loyal support group, the alumni, who provide significant financial support."

— Peter F. Scott '59

"I am a very objective and progressively-minded person who can appreciate the need to balance passion for a place as it currently exists with the need for change in the future ... Please keep alumni/ae on the Board of Trustees and continue the bold tradition of democracy."

— Lisa Zeytoonjian Glenn '98

"I will never support a decision that advocates anything less than the current policy on Alumni Trustees. Long live democracy."

— Lindsay Lockhart '04

For more information about the governance crisis at Dartmouth College, please visit

SaveDartmouth.org