

# Minutes of Council of Class Presidents Meeting

7 November 2011

0847: Meeting was called to order by VADM Mustin '55.

- Recognition of Class Presidents serving on active duty
- Introduction of newly elected Class Presidents
- Minutes of Spring 2011 COCP Meeting approved by vote.

VADM Mustin presented issue Paper #1 (COCP undertake advocacy and financial support of projects for USNA and Alumni Association) and Issue Paper #2 ("Historical Excellence").

VADM Mustin made the following points:

- (1) Organization's function does not make good use of talent in COCP
- (2) Need to look for roles and missions that make COCP a valued resource. Find a meaningful role for COCP.
- (3) Look to set up link between COCP and Superintendent that mirrors link forged by Athletic and Scholarship Foundation and the Athletic Director.
- (4) Asked for ideas on how to re-organize COCP.
- (5) Noted concern of leaders of alumni during the consolidation of Alumni Association and Foundation fund-raising that athletics would displace other alumni issues.
- (6) Stated that a vote would be called for later in the meeting.

## Old Business

Committee Leadership: VADM Mustin '55 proposed VADM Dunn '51 for Chair of Governance Committee. Perry Martini '71 nominated and Gene Avallone '52 seconded the nomination. The nomination of VADM Dunn to chair the Governance Committee was approved unanimously. Then VADM Mustin proposed Kevin Callaghan '73 to replace Steve Hubbard '73 as chair of Membership Committee. The nomination was made, seconded and carried unanimously.

Eileen Proulx was recognized for her superb work in assisting in class reunions. She is leaving the area because of her husband's new job.

VADM Monroe '50 commented on Issue Paper #2 noting that it was appropriate for distinguished graduates to be recognized in the Yard. However, monuments in the Yard commemorate events typically occurring before the memory of most visitors and are under the purview of the "Memorials Committee". Some post-World War II events are recognized by exhibits in the Naval Academy Museum. He added that future defense cuts argue that fund-raising should be directed to critical needs of the Naval Academy. VADM Mustin said the challenge is "what can we do without breaking the bank or pulling money away from the Alumni Association." He proposed to meet with the Director of the Naval Aviation Museum to discuss this point. Ingar Grev '89 noted that he and VADM Dunn serve on the Memorial Committee which is a tough committee to get ideas through. VADM Mustin deferred further discussion to the afternoon session.

The Naval Academy Superintendent, Vadm Mike Miller '74, was introduced and spoke about recent progress at the Academy.

- He is proud of the leadership continuum, everyone gets the chance to lead but the way we teach leadership changes. Remarked that Brigade has heard from several noted leadership speakers.
- Reviewed service assignments for Class of 2012, including 285 aviators, 264 Marines, 30 SEALs and others.
- Cyber Security course for plebes inserted into the tight curriculum by shifting other classes. Need to get started on cyber security and will follow with higher level courses later.
- Reported on various competitive rankings of the Naval Academy in polls and news magazines: Forbes #17, US News and World Report #14, Newsweek #9. USNA four year graduation rate is 88% (compared to national six year graduation rate of 57%) tied for #6 in USA and ahead of Army and Air Force academies.
- Discussed international programs to provide midshipmen exposure to foreign cultures.
- Reported on success of 32 Navy varsity sports, providing complete edge, learning to win, experiencing losing. One third of Brigade is involved in varsity sports. Navy is #3 nationally in varsity athlete graduation rate at 96%.
- Reviewed entering Class of 2015 statistics. Highest number of application yet (over 19,000) and still rising.
- Noted that Hurricane Irene caused damage to the Yard, including loss of 30 trees, and the earthquake damaged some buildings.
- Reported that the new food court ("King's Court") opened in King Hall to support the midshipmen when sit-down meals are not served. Also renovation of Halsey Field House will include a new home for the Admissions Office. We still need space for cyber security classes as well as other academic space.
- Concluded that the "Long Blue Line" linkage to the past is important to the future of USNA and that USNA must provide the midshipmen safe environment for learning.

Questions from the Class Presidents attending the COCP Meeting followed the Superintendent's presentation:

Jim Minderlein '65 noted that midshipmen do not wear the uniform properly and gave examples. He asked for attention to detail and enforcement of Navy uniform standards. Dave Church '67 asked about the views of university presidents regarding league affiliation. The Superintendent said Navy must compete at the highest level, that money is not the driver in this regard, but that we must show we can win at the highest level. Spencer Johnson '63 asked about impact of DoD budget cuts. Supe said that CNO and SECNAV were protecting the Naval Academy, the Naval War College and the Naval Postgraduate School, although numbers of midshipmen will probably decrease. In response to a question about prior enlisted entrants, the Superintendent said that the "Seaman to Admiral" program was siphoning off many strong candidates (to civilian colleges). Gene Avallone '52 asked what happens to Flight School drop-outs who had high class standing at USNA. Superintendent replied that they can ask for a different career field but many are full due to current high retention. "If they have a technical background we will find a place for them."

In closing, the Superintendent noted that he had been talking to VADM Mustin about how COCP can be useful. The intellectual capital here is valuable and he gets good input from the Alumni Association and Foundation staff concerning COCP concerns.

Alumni Association President and CEO Byron Marchant '78 discussed collaboration with Superintendent and Naval Academy staff in developing the new Strategic Plan and working on priority initiatives. He noted that we are working toward Campaign 2020 with an official start in 2013. He reported that 2011 was a good year financially, putting Alumni Association and Foundation back on a sound financial footing. After discussing efforts to engage alumni, parents and Brigade, he noted that his challenges were (1) the Economy and (2) the Annual Fund and (3) staffing the Enterprise.

Acting Executive Vice President for Development, Steve Maconi, followed with description of class support to USNA. He noted thirteen chairs and professors plus four distinguished military professors are funded by class gifts. He provided a list of current class projects and asked for support of the Annual Fund in all class projects. He noted that the Naval Academy Foundation was working with parents and parents' clubs to encourage donor development. He mentioned that young alumni have high participation rates through the "First Gift" program of the NAF and recent midshipmen classes.

Executive Vice President for Engagement, Skid Heyworth '70, provided details on the new Engagement Division, increased involvement with parents, support of "Another Link in the Chain" with 50 year predecessor class, and commitment to "multi-channel communication" in all modes print and electronic.

Director of Information Services, Ken Kurz '99, newly onboard, listed his top three projects: USNA mobile app (launch by November 2011), USNA.com redesign (relaunch March 2012) and Classmail hosting for lifetime e-mail and forwarding (by end of year). He answered many detailed questions from the attendees on various aspects of electronic communication used by the Alumni Association.

Committee Reports: Nothing to report from any committee.

Director of Athletics and Director Naval Academy Athletic Association, Chet Cladchuk, discussed his two new coaches in men's basketball and lacrosse. He mentioned that a TV production on Navy athletics was underway with camera crews closely following the football team. For Ireland in 2012 Navy has 51,000 seats and class presidents are invited to join the football team charter flights (there are costs involved). He mentioned the need for the Phase IV Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium upgrade to sustain the beauty of the stadium; upgrades to the 1943 constitution for NAAA, the changing landscape in athletics with league changes (Navy will probably stay with the Patriot League for all sports except football). Navy wants to be relevant and project nationally but as conferences de-link to have intra-conference playoffs, Navy may find it hard to get worthy opponents and hard to schedule games. Networks dictate when you can play, independents are losing out. If Navy and Superintendent decide that conference affiliation is appropriate, we will be ready to move. Chet answered questions from attendees including when we need to make decision on joining "Big East" conference (Chet:

“Dust is settling; strategy of Commissioner is to wait for announcement until everything is wired.”) He repeated Navy needs to be a national player.

1308. After a break for lunch, the meeting resumed with presentation of the Class of 1969 Fiftieth Reunion gift by Class President Steve Comiskey and Stephen Leaman '69. Project is entitled “Alumni Mentoring Project” and briefing provided an overview of how social media will be used to share experience and wisdom and to leverage connections and relationships between mentors and mentees. The Class of 1969 will underwrite the pilot program and expect the Alumni Association eventually to take it over. They ask for alumni to serve as mentors to newer alumni and midshipmen. The program will be briefed to the Board of Trustees in December.

In response to questions from attendees, briefers stated that the program will cost about \$100 K per year which the Class of 1969 will provide and will require ½ F.T.E. position at the Alumni Association to run it.

#### Decade Representative Reports from Break-out Sessions:

30's and 40's Decades: Regarding Josh Welles's Issue Paper on Board of Trustee representation for class presidents on active duty, representatives had no objection unless it was in fact counter to Maryland Corporate Law. Regarding Issue Paper #1 the representatives prefer to stick with the current COCP charter. Regarding Issue Paper #2 they agree in principle to honor post-World War II events, but concept needs more study. They also request that break-out sessions be rescheduled after issue paper presentations.

50's Decade: Preferred to wait for discussion of issue papers on the agenda.

60's Decade: No classes supported Issue Paper #1; all classes supported the concept of Issue Paper #2 but all opposed a funding role for COCP. Regarding Josh Welle's Issue Paper on BOT representation for Active Duty Class Presidents, suggest a non-voting representative with full speaking rights be seated with the Board if legally prevented from voting. Further comments on issue paper concerns: COCP charter is vague and clout-less; add a provision to provide feedback to Superintendent, Alumni Association and Foundation. Establish a smaller group from the COCP to meet with the Superintendent.

70's Decade: Felt that the COCP was a valuable forum, follows its purpose of information exchange and election of representatives to the Board of Trustees. COCP should not compete with other fund-raising entities. Regarding Issue Paper #2, group agreed that we need better recognition for distinguished graduates. Let's work with the Superintendent on how to do this. Regarding Josh Welle's Issue Paper, group agrees although they recognize problems with Maryland law.

90's and 2000's Decades: There is a precedent for a remote vote at a Board of Trustees meeting (e.g. Murph McCarthy) via phone with an authenticated letter. We like the idea of the Academy Mentoring Program. Classmates have pressed us on this concept. Regarding COCP, just showing up and exchanging information with other Class Presidents has been valuable. Regarding Issue Paper #2: we want to learn more about the Hall of Graduates since it appears

that the classes of the 90's will be given the lead.

### Discussion of Issue Papers #1 and #2

VADM Mustin restated that there is no clear path for any action from the COCP other than to write papers. We have not been a body of influence on the operation of the Naval Academy. He did not want to get into programmatic, but didn't think that we ought to drop the search for a mission and structure that gets us into the game and determines how we ought to operate through the bureaucracy of the Naval Academy. We need to function together with the leadership of USNA and the Alumni Association. VADM Mustin suggested we pick some key programs and find a helpful role for the COCP. The capability in this room should be employed. What should this group be willing to take on?

- Gordon Gerson '58: Alumni Association collects lots of data for Distinguished Graduate Award selection. Make these data available to midshipmen research through the Class of 1958 electronic classroom. We propose feasibility study for this idea with Class of 1958 funding. (VADM Mustin: "Good idea, don't need any approval to proceed.")

- Victor Delano '40: We need to look at our charter and find a stronger role and mission.

VADM Mustin then withdrew Issue Paper 31 and Issue Paper #2. He asked for a motion to obtain better ideas for roles and missions of the COCP from its members at our next meeting. Ingar Grev '89 suggested making COCP more muscular. Bill Natter '64 suggested getting the Alumni Association input on how the COCP can better help them. VADM Bob Dunn '51 cautioned that we should not throw out the concept of better recognition of distinguished graduates.

MOTION: :The Council of Class Presidents recommends that some recognition of Distinguished Graduates be made in some forum to the Memorials Oversight Commission for their consideration and action." The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Jim Minderlein '65 again noted that we need to communicate our concerns directly to the Superintendent. VADM Mustin replied that he had discussed this with the Superintendent and the Supe said he would take it under consideration.

1445. There being no further business, the meeting of the Council of Class Presidents was adjourned.