Report from the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Haverford College
Revised and corrected

Dear Members of the Haverford Community,

We write to report on the Annual Meeting of the Corporation held on campus April 29, 2017. For a brief description of the Corporation, please refer to the addendum that follows this message.

The Corporation welcomed President Kim Benston, Treasurer Mitch Wein, and Dean of Admission Jess Lord for a panel discussion. Kim reported that the College is working hard on several tracks currently: 1) Improving the infrastructure of the college (in technology, finance, admission, etc.), while maintaining the all-important value commitments of the College. 2) Continuing to implement the Plan for Haverford 2020, advancing the educational and broader mission of the College. And 3) Implementing finalized plans that infuse sustainability and diversity and inclusion into all aspects of the College. Mitch reported that both Fitch and Standard & Poor’s gave the College an "AA-" rating with a stable outlook, which is a positive indicator of Haverford's financial health. Other indicators also mean that we can be optimistic looking to the future. Jess reported that this year the College received over 4,400 applications, an exceptionally talented and accomplished pool overall. We admitted 19%, or 859 students, aiming for a final class size of about 350. Students of color are represented in the admitted group at 49%, and the admitted class earned the highest average SAT and ACT scores in the college’s history. They are exceptionally qualified in every aspect. Jess added that the transition to a need-sensitive admission process has been managed extremely carefully, with attention to maintaining Haverford’s core values at every step. In the end, the new policy only affected 3% of the decisions made, and did not affect diversity except very slightly in the number of students who receive financial aid. The change did not affect the academic quality of the admitted pool of students at all. The panel then responded to questions.

The Corporation approved for terms beginning July 1 the following nominations, which were presented by Standing Nominating Committee Clerk, Ann Satterthwaite: fifty-one new and renewing Corporation members; Corporation officers – Jonathan W. Evans ’77, clerk (ex officio member, Board of Managers), Jennifer S. Perkins ’82, assistant clerk, and Ginny Christensen, secretary (ex officio Board member); new and renewing members of the Board of Managers – William J. Marsden, Jr., ’78, Jonathan (Mac) Gamse ’93, Beatrice Mitchell P’17, and Jane Silber ’85; new and renewing members of the Corporation Advisory Committee – William Coleman ’07, Molly Finn ’85, and Laura Sharpless Myran; and new and renewing members of the Standing Nominating Committee – Amy Arundale ’07, William Marsden ’78, and Louise Tritton. The following are newly-appointed Corporation Associates: Adriana Cvitkovic ’16, Marcus Levy ’15, Emma Marsden ’13, Damon Motz-Storey ’16, Elise Riley ’16, Katie Rowlett ’16, Marie Vastola ’16, and Rosemary Krome Ventura ’16.

Following the completion of elections, Corporation members heard from a panel about the state of Quaker affairs and community at Haverford: Amy Taylor Brooks ‘92, Kaye Edwards, Jonathan Evans, and Walter Sullivan ’82. Amy noted the huge impact all of the people in the room have on the life of the College, each of whom does something to support Haverford. Kaye described a powerful experience the College community had this fall at the conference Quakers, First Nations, and American Indians: from the 1650s to the 21st Century, co-hosted by Haverford, Bryn Mawr, and the University of Pennsylvania. Kaye also called attention to the addition of faculty member David Watts, the new Douglas and Dorothy Steere Professor of Quaker Studies. Kaye noted that she is retiring this spring and that teaching at the College has been a huge honor. Walter lauded Kaye for how long and hard she’s worked to bring us David Watt as Professor of Quaker Studies. He also commented on the contentious presidential election, which deeply affected hearts and minds of the students this year. They came together and worked through their responses in a way that had real integrity and that was imbued with our Quaker ethos. Then the Quaker Panel took questions.

After a short break, members of the Corporation adjourned to 6 breakout groups. This portion of the day was designed in response to the feedback from last year’s Annual Meeting, to be more interactive, to give more time to in-depth conversations. Topics were:

1. Sustainability and Social Responsibility

2. Diversity and Community

3. Life Under Need-Aware Admissions

4. A Quaker Orientation Towards Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility

5. The Future of Quaker Studies at Haverford

6. Effective, Ethical Governance in a Time of Change

The Corporation thanks all staff, faculty, and students who contributed to a very successful 2017 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully,

Jonathan W. Evans ’77, Clerk

Jennifer S. Perkins ’82, Assistant Clerk

Ginny Christensen, Secretary/Recording Clerk

Amy Taylor Brooks ’92, Advisory Committee Clerk

Kim Benston, President of the College