A Report from the Corporation of Haverford College
May 25, 20018

Dear Members of the Haverford Community:

We write to report on the Annual Meeting of the Corporation held on campus April 28, 2018. 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, Dean of Admission Jess Lord, and Provost Fran Blase for reports and a panel discussion.

Kim began by taking note that Jonathan Evans is ending his term as Clerk of the Corporation this year and thanked Jon for his many years of service, for his instrumental support and guidance of the Corporation, and for the relationship between the Corporation and the College, which Kim stated is at an unusually healthy place as a result of Jon’s leadership.

Kim went on to report continued progress in implementing the Plan for Haverford 2020 and in advancing the educational and broader mission of the College. He described the vigorous conversation about the Honor Code occurring among students and faculty, and reminded us that the Honor Code is a living document that will change over time and that it is an invitation to a mode of life and a form of community.

Mitch reported ongoing progress towards the College’s goal of sustainable financial equilibrium on a full-accrual basis according to GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) standards. He shared that the economic challenges Haverford faces are industry-wide and that, even though the College is well positioned, it is not immune to a number of these same challenges.

Jess reported that this year the College admitted just under 19% of applicants and nearly 50% of those admitted are students of color. Approximately 24% of admitted students come from a family where one or both parents didn’t go to college, Jess said, and for 13%, both parents didn’t go to college. By all academic markers, it is the best group in the college’s history, and they are exceptionally qualified in every aspect.

The panel then responded to questions, with Fran reporting that IT infrastructure improvements are proceeding very well. In response to a question about athletics, Fran reported that about 60% of the student body participates some sort of athletics, and scholar-athletes have always been strong members of our community, developing excellent time-management skills and coming to the fore as student leaders.

We then heard a report from Board Chair and Corporation Member Rick White on the search for the next president of the College. He described how the search committee, which includes participants from a wide array of constituencies, has elicited significant input from the College community. He cautioned the Corporation members that the search process will be confidential, as many of the most highly qualified candidates are in important positions and that, without strict confidentiality in the process, the strongest of candidates might not apply for the presidential position.

The Corporation approved for terms beginning July 1 the following nominations, which were presented by Standing Nominating Committee member David Wertheimer ’77:

Fifty-three new and renewing Corporation members.

Corporation officers – Amy Taylor Brooks ’92, clerk (ex officio member, Board of Managers), Jennifer Perkins ’82, assistant clerk, and Ginny Christensen, secretary (ex officio Board member).

New and renewing members of the Board of Managers – Charles Beever ’74, James Boyer ’58, Anjan Chatterjee ’80, Jonathan Evans ’77, Christopher Gant ’83, Bruce Gorchow ’80, Roger Kafker ’84, Ann Satterthwaite, John Spears, John Taylor ’83, Vincent Warren ’86, and Nancy Wolfson.

New and renewing members of the Corporation Advisory Committee – Elias Blood-Patterson ’11, Zachary Dutton ’10, Diane Mallery ’84, Rachel Melroy-Husser ’02, Margaret Rowlett and incoming clerk of the Advisory Committee John Morse ’73.

New and renewing members of the Standing Nominating Committee – Jonathan Evans ’77, Ann Satterthwaite (Clerk), Drew Smith, and Chloe Tucker ’07.

The following are newly-appointed Corporation Associates: Abigail T. Corcoran ’17, Eleanor M. Greenler ’17, Chloe Walker Lindeman ’17, and Abigail Y. Reuscher ’17.

The Corporation also recognized those who were retiring from the Corporation, the Advisory Committee of the Corporation and the Board of Managers, including Ted Love ’81 and Sarah Willie-LeBreton ’86, and Young Alumni Associate Manager Amita Tomkoria ’06.

Following the completion of elections, Corporation members heard from a panel about the state of Quaker affairs and community at Haverford from Director of Quaker Affairs Walter Sullivan ’82, Steere Professor of Quaker Studies David Watt, Isabel Clements ‘21, Jackson Meyer-Lee ‘21, Hanae Togmani ’19, and Ceci Silberstein ’19. Students shared their perspectives on the Quaker experience at Haverford. The panel then took questions and engaged in conversation about the nature of interactions on campus around spirituality and diverse religious traditions. The April 27th inaugural celebration of Douglas and Dorothy Steere Professorship in Quaker Studies and the impact on the community of the ongoing Friend in Residence program were lifted up in this context.

After a short break, members of the Corporation adjourned to five breakout groups. Topics were:

The Quaker Character of Haverford College

Membership Criterion for a More Diverse Corporation

Corporation Structures

The Culture of Exchange on Campus

The Climate Crisis and Greater Philadelphia

In closing, the Corporation minuted its deep appreciation to Jonathan Evans for his ten years of service as clerk. Jon thanked the Corporation for having given him the opportunity, and he expressed his enthusiasm for the incoming Corporation leadership team, noting that they bring a remarkable depth and breadth of experience with Haverford, the Quaker Consortium, and Friends education.

The Corporation thanks all staff, faculty, and students who contributed to a very successful 2018 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

Kimberly W. Benston, President of the College

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The Corporation of Haverford College

The Corporation is a body of approximately two hundred persons who are members of the Religious Society of Friends (often referred to as Friends or Quakers) or who are friends of the College, alumni or past members of the Board of Managers who exemplify what it means to be grounded in the faith and practice of the Religious Society of Friends. The Corporation holds legal title to the College’s assets and elects members and officers of the Corporation, members of the Board of Managers, and members of the Standing Nominating Committee and the Advisory Committee of the Corporation. The priorities of the Corporation are to fulfill the fiduciary responsibilities of ownership and to support the College in strengthening and enriching Haverford's Quaker character.

The Advisory Committee acts as a liaison between the Corporation and the College community. It meets several times a year with the President of the College to consult on matters that affect the Quaker character of Haverford. As needed, it makes recommendations to the President, the Corporation and/or other College entities regarding such matters, and it plans the agenda for Corporation meetings. The Advisory Committee comprises up to sixteen Corporation members. The President of the College, and the Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Secretary of the Corporation serve as ex officio members.

Corporation meetings are grounded in Friends’ business practice, and the method of arriving at decisions is described in the Bylaws of the College as follows:

Traditionally, the Religious Society of Friends has used the term “sense of the meeting” to mean group decision-making guided and led by the Spirit of God. For purposes of, and as used in these Bylaws, the term “sense of the meeting” shall mean that all members of the group present have a shared awareness of where the group has been led and are in substantial unity, in the manner of Friends, to move forward with a decision, as discerned by the presiding clerk at a Corporation meeting or chair at a Board of Managers meeting, using Friends’ principles.