2020 Report from the Corporation of Haverford College
First Draft
2020.05.04

Dear Members of the Haverford Community:

We write to report on the Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Haverford College held via Zoom on April 25, 2020, on account of the physical distancing required by the Covid19 pandemic. For a brief description of the Corporation, please refer to the addendum that follows this message.

Amy Taylor Brooks ‘92, Clerk, opened the meeting by welcoming Friends from as far away as Tokyo and Mexico and thanking the members of the Corporation Working Group on Membership. Their report to the Corporation proposing a series of bylaw changes would be a major focus of our time together that day.

The minutes from the April 27, 2019 Annual Meeting were approved, with some corrections.

The Corporation heard a report from President Wendy Raymond, who welcomed us virtually “into her home” at 1 College Circle. Wendy described how Covid-19 has changed so much at Haverford this spring, its impact on the College, and the amazing work of students, faculty, staff, and senior administration in response. She remarked on how grateful she is to be part of an institution that has such a fundamental commitment to community, and how this has been an important asset in our success during this challenging time.

Wendy and Treasurer and Senior Vice President Mitchel Wein fielded wide ranging questions from the Corporation membership.

Anne Satterthwaite, retiring clerk of the Standing Nominating Committee reported that the SNC took a whole new look at our nomination process this year, guided by the four principles that we had articulated and the Corporation membership had endorsed at last year’s annual meeting. The Corporation then approved the following nominations:

Forty new and renewing Corporation members.

Corporation officers: Amy Taylor Brooks ’92, clerk, Jennifer Perkins ’82, assistant clerk, and Ginny Christensen, secretary.

New and renewing members of the Board of Managers: Rachel W. Melroy-Husser '02, Terry A. Nance, Jonathan (Mac) Gamse '93, Beatrice Mitchell P'17, Sara Recktenwald '87, and Jane Silber '85.

New and renewing members of the Corporation Advisory Committee: Laura Boyce, Diane M. Mallery '84, Rachel W. Melroy-Husser '02, and Terry A. Nance.

New members of the Standing Nominating Committee: Jamal Elliott '96, Reema Keswani '96, and David M. Wertheimer '77, incoming clerk.

The following are newly appointed Corporation Associates: Alexandra M. Corcoran '19, Rebeckah K. Fussell '19, William R. Herzog '19, Melissa J. McLaughlin '19, Praxedes O. Quintana '18, Maurice Rippel '19, Theodore A. Rodine '19, and Hanae J. Togami '19.

Friends expressed deep appreciation to three members of the Corporation ending their service on the Board of Managers this year: Anjan Chatterjee '80, Jonathan Evans '77, and Ann Satterthwaite.

The Corporation then heard from WGoM clerk, Joy Takahashi ’87, P’22, reporting on the working group process that resulted in the proposed bylaw changes. Amy Brooks reminded us that our job was not to make any decisions that day. If the process works as planned, the soonest any change could be adopted would be at our Annual Meeting in 2022, and of course it could take longer.

Friends then divided up first into groups of 3-4 and then groups of about 20, each threshing one of four different issues related to the proposed changes:

1. The proposed new criterion for membership on the Corporation.

2. Required Quaker representation on the Board of Managers.

3. The proposed adjacent recommendations from the WGoM.

4. Why should we make these changes to the bylaws at all?

Another group of members and attenders chose to continue in conversation with President Raymond, Mitch Wein, and some of the clerks and officers of the Corporation.

Friends returned to the group of the whole to receive reports back from each of the threshing sessions.

Amy reminded friends that the Corporation Advisory Committee will review this material and develop a plan for moving the conversation forward. The meeting ended in worship and with deep gratitude for everyone who worked to make our first-ever virtual annual meeting such a major success.

Respectfully,

Amy Taylor Brooks ‘92 Clerk

Jennifer S. Perkins ’82, Assistant Clerk

Ginny Christensen, Secretary/Recording Clerk

John M. Morse ‘73, Advisory Committee Clerk

Wendy Raymond, 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 Quakers) or who are friends of the College, alumni or past members of the Board of Managers and 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. 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.