2022 Report from the Corporation of Haverford College
2022.05.18

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 23, 2022. For a brief description of the Corporation, please refer to the addendum that follows this message.

Amy Taylor Brooks '92, Clerk of the Corporation, opened the meeting with a period of shared worship. She started with a brief land acknowledgment and invited everyone in attendance to enter into the chat their name, their current location, and the original keepers of that land, if they knew it. We warmly welcomed many valued new members.

The minutes from the April 24, 2021 Annual Meeting were approved.

The full Corporation membership engaged in an antiracist learning moment facilitated by members of the Working Group on Cultural and Structural Change, exploring differences of identity and experience.

President Wendy Raymond spoke briefly on the strength of the incoming class of 2026 and the current strategic planning process. Mitchell Wein, Senior Vice President for Administration and Finance, Treasurer, shared an overview of the College’s sound financial position.

David Wertheimer '77, clerk of the Corporation Standing Nominating Committee, reviewed a written narrative and statistical overview describing this year’s nomination selection process and fielded questions.

The Corporation then approved the following nominations:

* Sixty-five new and renewing Corporation members.
* Corporation officers: Amy Taylor Brooks '92, Clerk, Joy Y. Takahashi '87, Assistant Clerk, Zachary T. Dutton '10, Secretary.
* New and renewing members of the Board of Managers: Molly L. Finn '85, Jennifer Perkins '82, E. Vincent Warren '86, David M. Wertheimer '77, Jerome M. Williams '73, Zachary T. Dutton '10 (ex-officio), Mark G. Anderson '84, Steve Begleiter '84, Claudia Hammerman '87, Henry Ritchotte '85, Jim M. Kinsella '82, Don H. Liu '83, Kari C. Nadeau '88.
* New and renewing members of the Corporation Advisory Committee: Emily Higgs Allison '08, Sabea K. Evans '18, John Morse '73, Clerk.
* New members of the Corporation Standing Nominating Committee: Jerome Williams '73, Natalie Wossene '08, Caroline A. McKeon '18, Thien Le '05.
* The following are newly appointed Corporation Associates: Faith K. Apencha '21, Colin D. Battis '21, Moselle N. Burke '21, Noorie Chowdhury '21, Jackson Q. Meyer-Lee '21, Isidore Mohr '20, Evan C. Moon '21, Claudia S. Ojeda Rexach '21, Loui Othman '21, Joseph A. Stein '21, Elom K. Tettey-Tamaklo '19.

Friends expressed deep appreciation to all the managers coming off the Board this year, including 2 Corporation members: Ginny Christensen (Corporation member), Norval Reece (Corporation member), Seth Bernstein '84, Shibu Shibulai, and Paul Zoidis '81. We also shared our grate gratitude to Ginny and Jennifer Perkins '82 for their many years of service as Secretary and Assistant Clerk of the Corporation.

The Corporation then turned its attention to the consideration of a set of proposed bylaw recommendations first approved at the 2021 annual meeting but requiring second and final approval this year. The proposals change the criterion for membership on the Corporation to promote greater diversity; to include any interested person (Quaker or not) who is grounded in and guided by values aligned with the faith and practice of Quakers, is committed to stewardship of the College, and is willing to learn and participate in the Quaker processes of the Corporation; to make changes to create a more open and transparent nominating process; to replace the requirement of a specific number of Quakers on the Board of Managers with a “meaningful representation” standard; and to establish a working group to support an on-going process of cultural and structural change within the Corporation itself.

After a second year of long and searching session, Clerk Amy Taylor Brooks discerned that there was still a sense of the meeting to approve the changes in full, even though this year five members chose to stand aside and two members chose to stand in the way of approval of the changes.

The Corporation approved appointing a working group to continue developing guidance about the term “meaningful representation” to assist the Corporation Standing Nominating Committee in its role of identifying candidates to join the Board of Managers on behalf of the Corporation. The body also agreed to schedule a special called meeting over the summer to hear a report from the working group and address other agenda items that were postponed due to lack of time.

Respectfully,

Amy Taylor Brooks '92 Clerk

Jennifer S. Perkins '82, Assistant Clerk

Zachary T. Dutton '10, Acting 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.