2021 Report from the Corporation of Haverford College
2021.05.17

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 24, 2021. 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 invited members who have never been to a Corporation meeting before to introduce themselves. We warmly welcomed many valued new members.

The minutes from the April 25, 2020 Annual Meeting were approved.

The full Corporation membership engaged in an antiracist learning moment facilitated by members of the Corporation Working Group on Adjacent Recommendations, exploring Crossroads Ministry’s Continuum on Becoming an Anti-Racist Multicultural Organization. We expect sessions like this to be a regular part of our continuing work.

Because Amy needed to leave for personal reasons, Assistant Clerk, Jennifer Perkins '82, stepped in to ably support us through the rest of our business.

David Wertheimer '77, incoming clerk of the Corporation Standing Nominating Committee, reviewed the first edition of a new narrative and statistical report which provides an overview of the committee’s priorities, and shows the impact of our new nominees upon the demographic makeup of the Corporation. We committed to continue this practice of greater transparency around our nominating processes.

The Corporation then approved the following nominations:

* Fifty-two 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: Petra Doan '77, Brian Cooper '80, Bruce D. Gorchow '80, Thien Le '05, Erica Lurie-Hurvitz '96, John D. Spears, E. Vincent Warren '86, and Nancy Wolfson.
* New and renewing members of the Corporation Advisory Committee: Peter Anderson '92, William Coleman '07, Zachary Dutton '10, Ben Fiore-Walker, and Tracey E. Hucks.
* New members of the Corporation Standing Nominating Committee: Jacqueline V. Brady '89, Damon Motz-Storey '16, Norval Reece (Board), and Jerome M. Williams '73 (Board).
* The following are newly appointed Corporation Associates: Sarah M. Curtis '20, Jharna Jahnavi '19, Mariana Ramirez '20, Rebecca C. Richie '20, Charlie Silberstein '19, Joseph (Joe) Spir Rechani '20, Caroline A. Steliotes '18, and Tom Stokes '18.

Friends expressed deep appreciation to three members of the Corporation ending their service on the Board of Managers this year: James L Boyer '58, Christopher T Gant '83, and John Taylor '83.

The Corporation heard from Wendy Raymond, who reported on her second year as president at Haverford College: dealing with the pandemic, moving through antiracism and social justice challenges, and completing all the regular business of running a college. Wendy expressed cautious hope, tempered by reality, that we are moving out of the pandemic now and will be able to return to the campus in the fall in person, still with health restrictions in place as needed.

President Wendy Raymond, Treasurer and Senior Vice President Mitchel Wein, Vice President and Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Jess Lord, Interim Dean of the College Joyce Bylander, Provost and Interim Co-Chief Diversity Officer Linda Strong-Leek, and Assistant Dean and Co-Chief Diversity Officer Raquel Esteves-Joyce fielded wide ranging questions from the Corporation membership.

The Corporation then turned its attention to the consideration of a set of proposed bylaw recommendations designed to change the criterion for membership on the Corporation to promote greater diversity; to include any interested person (Quaker or not) who is 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 long and searching session, acting Clerk Jennifer Perkins discerned that there was a sense of the meeting to approve the changes, even though three members chose to stand aside and three members chose to stand in the way of approval of the changes. Because these revisions have to do with election of nominees to the Board of Managers, a second and final approval of these bylaw modifications is required at next year’s annual meeting of the Corporation.

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.