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September 14, 2007

Mr. James Wright
President
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755-4030

Dear President Wright:

AGB applauds the recent decisions made by the Dartmouth Board of Trustees to strengthen board governance for the benefit of current and future students at the College. We recognize the challenges and strong feelings engendered by the governance review; the outcomes provide the College with an opportunity to build a board and governance process that is forward looking, pragmatic, inclusive and efficient, while also remaining respectful of its rich culture and history.

Increasing the number of trustees demonstrates an understanding of the important (and changing) fiduciary responsibilities of governing boards in today's higher education environment. The additional number of board members will provide Dartmouth with the opportunity to add to its board's diversity, expertise, and philanthropic outreach. The Governance of our enterprise has been in the spotlight over the last several years as never before, and a board must be fully accountable for how it is structured and the processes by which it meets its responsibilities. Dartmouth's board has clearly recognized that responsibility in taking these steps.

The concerns of the alumni association were clearly respected in the actions taken by the board. Parity in board governance is not the primary issue, although the passion surrounding its history is understood. In institution governance, representation of specific groups and interests should not determine board makeup. In fact, representative governance is not in keeping with effective board decision-making. The board's respect for the history of alumni association engagement in the process has, in fact, been strengthened through the new nominating and voting process.

The board's decision to formalize a set of board bylaws, to establish a vice chair of the board, and to add to the committee structure will modernize its governance, add to the efficiency of its processes, and facilitate the "Integral Leadership" model that this association advocates. The Dartmouth board will soon be positioned to be even more effective in carrying out its fiduciary and oversight responsibilities.

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Again, we commend the Dartmouth board for engaging in an open and thoughtful process of governance review. The net results will be seen in the board's performance and the impact that will have on the future of the College.

Best wishes.



Richard D. Legon

RDL/ja

cc: Charles E. Haldeman, Jr.