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CHARLES E. HALDEMAN, JR.
CHAIR
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 15, 2007

Dear Fellow Alumni,

As Dartmouth's summer term draws to a close - and students in Hanover try to balance the lure of beautiful August days on the Connecticut River with the need to prepare for final exams - I wanted to provide you with an update on the Trustees' governance review that I first wrote to you about in June.

First though, I want to extend thanks, on behalf of those students and the entire College, to everyone who once again contributed their time and money to support Dartmouth this year. Thanks to that generosity, Dartmouth closed its fiscal year this summer with \$159.1 million in annual gifts, including a record-breaking \$39.1 million to the Dartmouth College Fund. I know it is our love for Dartmouth - and our dedication to supporting the students of today and tomorrow - that keep so many of us involved with the College many, many years after our own time there.

That is also what has guided the Board's governance review this summer. During the past two months, the Governance Committee has interviewed a wide variety of individuals - including trustees, former trustees, alumni leaders and other members of the Dartmouth community - to get their views on the best structure for the Board and the best process for selecting trustees. We have consulted with leading experts in college and non-profit governance. We have carefully evaluated best practices from more than thirty different leading colleges and universities. And, we have received input from hundreds of alumni who have taken time to share their views with us via the feedback process we set up on the College's website.

The members of the Governance Committee have spent hundreds of hours this summer working on these issues, and they will continue to do so through Labor Day. On September 7-9, the Committee will be presenting its work to the full Board, and I will update you after that meeting on what conclusions, if any, the Board reaches regarding Dartmouth's governance.

Whatever the Board concludes, I can assure you our decision will be based on what we believe is best for Dartmouth - and its students - in the 21st century. We are committed to ensuring that the College continues to adapt to the constantly changing environment and continues to meet the new competitive challenges it faces. But, like all of you, we have a deep respect for the College's rich history and traditions, and we cherish those things that have always made Dartmouth unique.

In carrying out this review, we have heard from alumni on all sides of the debate. Many have been very thoughtful and extremely passionate in expressing their views. I know that for the overwhelming majority of alumni, those strong views are driven by a shared love and dedication to Dartmouth. I respect and appreciate that commitment, as well as how strongly so many people feel about this issue. And, while I'm sure that debates about the College's governance will continue for many years to come, I also believe that all of us should be committed to discussing this issue with respect for one another and a recognition that we are united by a desire to do what is best for the College.

I look forward to continuing to hear from many of you about the issues you think are most important to Dartmouth. And I hope that if you have the opportunity this fall, you will return to Hanover to cheer on the football team, catch a performance at the Hop or connect with some old friends. There is nowhere else in the world quite like Dartmouth, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to build on this great College's unique and pre-eminent place in American higher education.

Sincerely,

Ed Haldeman