

Wellesley College Class of 1976
Minutes of Class Meeting
June 6, 2021
Prepared by Ellen Boates Clark, class secretary

This meeting was conducted online via Zoom. Seventy-nine members of the class participated in the meeting.

Linda Ury Greenberg, Class President, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., EDT.

The meeting began with a visit from Wellesley College President Paula Johnson. President Johnson provided a brief overview of the 2020 pandemic year and of the new strategic plan. She then offered some details about the incoming class of 2025 before entertaining questions from members of the class of '76. President Johnson concluded her visit at 11:20.

Following the departure of President Johnson, Linda entertained a motion that the minutes from the 2016 class meeting be approved. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands.

Linda thanked reunion chairs Barbara Cray and Sara (Sally) Burford for the wonderful virtual reunion they coordinated and briefly reviewed the activities that were a part of the schedule. She also thanked the full reunion committee. In addition, Linda thanked Donna Stein and Camille Rankin for their work on the Record Book which is now available on the class web page. Lastly, she thanked the outgoing class officers (Helen Clement, Ellen Boates Clark, Louise Dunbar, Fayre Crossley) and the hosts of the four mini-reunions (Jenifer Mercer-Klimowski [Iowa]; Denise Chezek [Grand Canyon]; Lorna Blumen [Toronto]; Barbara Cray [canceled trip to France]).

Class treasurer, Helen Clement, reported that the class is "doing well" with \$49,000 in assets, an increase of 24% over 2016. Helen thanked classmates who have become lifetime members as those funds have helped our resources grow a lot. Helen then made a motion to make a class gift of \$450 each to the College and to the Wellesley Student Aid Society. The motion was seconded and approved by a show of hands.

Louise Dunbar, Wellesley Fund representative, reported that the class giving for the 2020-2021 fiscal year stood at \$137,965 but that number would probably grow before the June 30 year end. The five year total for the class was \$1,312,344 (again, subject to year-end giving). Most exciting was the current participation rate of 53.5%, well above most other classes, with 30 classmates giving at the Durant level. Noting that Louise is coming off of fifteen years as the Fund Representative, Julia Cutler Johns thanked Louise for her dedication and her wonderful thank-you notes.

Margaret (Peggy) Plympton, the class planned giving chair, reviewed some of the longer-term options for giving to Wellesley. She reported that the class currently has \$600,000 of documented bequest intentions as a part of the \$645,000 of total planned gifts of all types.

Ellen Boates Clark, class secretary, reported that 170 classmates were included in the twenty Class Notes she had written for the Wellesley Magazine during the last five years. Ellen also reviewed some of the functions of the class web site as a growing resource for sharing class news and activities.

Linda introduced Margaret Rose who provided a memorial service for the eight class members who passed away during the previous five years:

Elaine Lewis (March 11, 2016)
Cynthia Martin (June 15, 2017)
Carole Wong (August 1, 2018)
Barbara Ann Horwitz (September 9, 2018)
Lis de Tuerk Ghadar (September 24, 2018)
Barbara Adelman Carmen-MacDonald (October 30, 2018)
Virginia Ellen Curtis Turner (March 21, 2020)
Catherine Helen Albers (August 22, 2020)

Julia Cutler Johns, chair of the nominating committee, thanked committee members Cecilia (Cece) Conrad, Virginia (Ginny) Nightingale, and Margaret-Ann Moran for their work in assembling the slate of class officers for the next five years:

Avis Russell, president
Harriet Paulk Hessam, vice president
Shakira Abdul-Ali, co-secretary
Christie Webb, co-secretary
Margaret (Peggy) Plympton, treasurer
Camille Rankin, Wellesley Fund representative

Following a motion and a second, the slate was unanimously accepted by a show of hands.

Linda asked Barbara Cray and Sally Burford to review the remaining scheduled activities.

In new business, Gillian Derbyshire noted that there are several Facebook groups that are restricted to Wellesley alum and that she has found them to be great sources for staying in touch with other alum. Sally Burford, current moderator for the one devoted to members of the class of 1976, encouraged all interested to join.

There being no additional business, Linda thanked all for attending and adjourned the meeting at 12:12 p.m.