

Meeting of the Board of Directors
Townsend Harris Alumni Association, Inc.
1760 Third Avenue - 18th Floor
New York, NY 10029

MINUTES

DATE: April 9, 1995
TIME: 10:15 AM
PLACE: Florence Nightingale Nursing Home

Attending:

Saul Grossman (Presiding), Abraham C. Bein, Norman Bernstein, Julie Chan, Lester Friesner, Irving Gerber, Julius W. Graber, Karen Greenberger, Herbert Kadison, Malcolm Largmann, Marvin Leiner, Burton Milenbach, Maurice Paprin, Ted Peck (Secretary, Pro-tem), Malcolm Rossman, Charles Sigety, Thomas Sweetin.

Executive Director's Report

President Grossman invited Irving Gerber, Executive Director of the Townsend Harris Alumni Association, to open the meeting by reading correspondence from Alumni received since the last meeting. Among others, there were letters from Richard Edelstein '39, head of the Arizona Chapter, asking that a representative of the Board attend a meeting in Tempe in April. Mr. Grossman announced that he would probably be in Arizona in May, and will notify Mr. Edelstein. Other correspondents from the older Alumni included: Nathaniel Cohen '39, Board Member Nat Epstein '34, Morton Klotz '39, Gordon Cotler '40, Howard Oleck '28 and Leon Weinstock '39.

More recent alumni correspondents include: Melissa Rivera '90 who is working on a Doctorate in Bio-chemistry and Kirsten Rodenbeck '90, who got married and is now Kirsten Kennedy.

At this point Mr. Grossman reported on Ms. Pinar Kodaman '90, a student at the Yale Medical School. A NIAS scholar, she lunched with Mr. Grossman, Mr. Charles D. Fleischman of the NIAS Foundation and another NIAS scholar attending Yale. Mr. Fleischman was impressed with the caliber of the THHS graduates at Yale.

Mr. Gerber added two more items to his report: He noted that Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Sidney Kingsley died. Mr. Peck reported that in an embarrassing error, Mr. Kingsley had been inducted into the THHS Hall of Fame "posthumously". Mr. Gerber added that Anne Curtis, the widow of prominent doctor Robert H. Curtis '38 wishes to remain a dues paying member of the Alumni Association.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Julius Graber presented a financial report for the fiscal year ending 3/31/95.

Receipts	\$ 204,912.00
Disbursements	<u>82,456.00</u>
Excess	\$ 122,456.00

A the same time, Mr. Graber listed the Association's present assets, including securities, money market accounts and treasury notes, for a total of:

\$ 372,300.00

Mr. Graber suggested that the Townsend Harris scholarships that are currently funded from general Association funds be charged in the future to the income generated by the THETA Fund. There was minimal discussion of this matter, and it was suggested that it be brought up in the future when the Fund is larger and the annual income is substantial.

At this point, Mr. Herbert Kadison again suggested that the General Funds be segregated from the Theta funds with regular statements for each. Mr. Graber responded that at this time it is possible to intermix the funds as long as we keep careful control of the source of such funds.

Mr. Maurice Paprin moved to accept the treasurer's report and this motion was seconded and passed.

New Alumni Report

Although there were two representatives of the new alumni at the meeting, neither had been in contact with the various class secretaries and thus were unable to present a report at this time.

School Liaison

With Mr. Largmann, Mr. Rossman and Mr. Sweetin all on hand, there was a wide-ranging discussion of the many ways that the Alumni Association and the THETA Fund could help the school, its students and its programs in the months immediately ahead in the new building. Mr. Largmann said that he was under the impression that the THETA Fund would not be making grants until it got closer to its million dollar goal. Mr. Grossman and Mr. Sigety assured him that the Board wants to start giving out grants as soon as possible and to announce what has been done at the next commencement exercises.

With that in mind, Mr. Largmann told of his need for training one or more members of his faculty in the high tech capabilities of the new building. Specifically he wants someone to be able to integrate computers into the teaching process. He wants someone who will know how to use the complex facilities of the new auditorium -- which is really a medium-sized theater. He

would like to arrange a faculty retreat to work on curriculum coordination. Finally, he wants to set up a structured arrangement for community service -- with proper checking and supervision. And all of this must be accomplished within the framework of a significantly reduced budget.

Maury Paprin urged Mr. Largmann to contact the various manufacturers of equipment used in the new school and offer them promotional opportunities in exchange for extended help in training staff. Mr. Sigety and others suggested that a faculty retreat after a couple of months of operation would be more valuable than a pre-opening meeting. After a couple of months, the faculty would have a better idea of where the bugs are and what problems arise. As for the budget cuts, Mr. Sigety urged that the school concentrate on what they are getting and how much they can accomplish with it rather than bemoan the lower budget. Several specific suggestions were made on how budget dollars could be made to work harder.

Some discussion concerned the possible hiring of a choir or chorus coordinator for the music department. Several Board members had suggestions for getting a qualified person at lower costs. Someone suggested contacting Julliard or another music school and getting a graduate student who might welcome a chance to do such work before getting out of school. Contacting the Queens College music department was also suggested.

Queens College Liaison

In a report which resonated with enthusiasm and pride, Mr. Marvin Leiner, the Board's liaison with Queens College, announced that the tuition waivers for Townsend Harris seniors taking courses at Queens College had been renewed for the coming year. There had been considerable pressure to end such waivers, and this would have made it impossible for Townsend Harris students to take college courses for their final year.

He also reported that the Queens College technology group is coordinating its activities with Townsend Harris and cooperating with the high school in this area.

Mr. Leiner reported on the articles written by and about Townsend Harris and its award-winning student body. As an "almost" alumnus of Townsend Harris (January '43), he is particularly proud of what has been accomplished and it makes his job easier when dealing with the authorities at Queens College.

By-Laws

Mr. Grossman announced that by-laws changes which were prepared by Jerry Halpern to make it easier to have a quorum at Board meetings. Mr. Grossman read the changes and asked for a vote on acceptance. The changes were unanimously accepted. (A copy of the by-law changes attached.)

Fund Raising

Mr. Peck reviewed programs which have been undertaken in the past and suggested several directions for the future. Most particularly a mailing is planned for the younger alumni urging participation by as many as possible. It will be suggested that younger alumni commit to a gift of \$20 a year for five years. If 1,000 of them so pledge, it will raise an additional \$100,000 without any great sacrifice by anyone. Mr. Sigety observed that some of the younger alumni are employed in high-income jobs and could afford to make a more substantial gift. It was pointed out that everyone will be urged to give as much as possible, but the "\$20 for five" will be a minimum expectation. The mailings to the younger alumni awaits the collecting of updated mailing lists from the various class secretaries.

It was also discussed that in addition to the Hall of Fame ceremonies, we could honor an alumnus like Joe Flom, Gene Lang or George Weissman. In each case, the honoree would be asked to underwrite the cost of the dinner/luncheon, and all proceeds would accrue to the THETA Fund. The honoree could also provide a list of companies or individuals who might be solicited for attendance. This would generate funds from outside the very limited alumni list. Mr. Sigety and Mr. Peck will investigate the possibilities of this approach.

Newsletter

Mr. Gerber reported the the new review procedures are in place and will guide the writing, design and production of the next newsletter. A meeting with Norman Cohen and Lester Friesner is planned before the mailing is made.

Alumni Association Out-of-Town Chapters

Mr. Grossman again initiated discussions of the complaints and suggestions of the Florida Chapter. He noted that Mr. Merino and anyone else from Florida is welcome to attend the May 21st meeting to discuss the issues involved.

Mr. Graber volunteered that he will not be able to attend the May 21st meeting. He wanted to make it clear, however, that the Association's tax deductible status is based on a sworn statement that the Association was created specifically to help the re-opened Townsend Harris. The South Florida chapter is perfectly free to set up a social organization that meets for whatever purpose it wishes, but its dues and other income will no longer be tax deductible.

Mr. Grossman asked Mr. Graber to write a report to that effect and get it to a member of the Board before the May 21st meeting. Mr. Graber promised to try and prepare such a report.

The April 24th Walk to the New Building

At 9:30 AM, on the morning of Monday, April 24, 1995, history will be made in the Borough of Queens. For at that moment the students and faculty of the re-opened Townsend Harris will start their march to the new building on

Melbourne Avenue. When they arrive and take possession of the new building, it will be the first time in 65 years that Townsend Harris will be in a permanent home of its own. A number of members of the Board plan to join the procession.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

Section 3.

QUORUM

A quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Board of Directors shall consist of such number of directors as is equal to the total of five plus one additional for every ten directors (or fraction thereof) in excess of fifteen directors. A quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of a committee designated by the Board shall be a majority of the committee.
(Amended on April 9, 1995 by vote of the Board of Directors.)