Confirmation of Electronic Voting

Impact: At this past May’s annual meeting of alumni (held during Alumni Weekend), the alumni present voted in favor of electronic voting. However, the vast majority of alumni were not present. Consequently, we would like to reaffirm electronic voting going forward. Electronic voting will help ensure broad participation from all alumni, even if they are not able to physically attend Alumni Weekend on an annual basis.

Proposed change 1:

Updating title “Associate VP to College” to “College Liaison” who is not appointed by alumni.

Impact: Currently, the Constitution refers to a College employee as an Associate VP to College and states that this employee is selected in part by the alumni. This Associate VP role has not existed in the recent past. The update will allow flexibility regarding which College employee serves as the main contact for the alumni.

Proposed change 2:

Remove geographic zones for selection of Alumni Council members.

Impact: Currently, alumni join Council each year from each of nine geographic regions. Rather than one optimized list of potential future Council members, the Nominations Committee ends up creating a separate list for each geographic region and geography becomes a more higher valued aspect for consideration over age, graduation year, major, post-Swarthmore career, etc. In lieu of specifically defined geographic locations, removing this restriction would allow the Nominations Committee to have a single integrated list of potential Council members selected for holistic diversity that includes geography among other aspects.

Proposed change 3:

Update elections to single slate vote and increase self and peer nominations.

Impact: In lieu of multiple candidates competing in an election for each seat available to the associated geographic region, this would change the annual all alumni vote to elect new Council members to a yes or no vote on a single slate proposed by the Nominations Committee.

Proposed change 4:

Expand communication methods for Alumni Association announcements beyond the “Alumni issue” of the Bulletin.

Impact: This allows for a simple update in language representing the evolution of the College Bulletin over time as well as the increase in electronic communication to alumni.

Proposed change 5:

Elevate Regional Connections to a separate program beyond the scope of Alumni Council.
Impact: Regional Connections are alumni groups located in cities around the world. (For more information and a full list of current connection cities or for information on how to create a connection in your city please go here: http://www.swarthmore.edu/alumni/regional-connections). In the past each Regional Connection could select one member to serve on Alumni Council. As the number of connections has increased as have their activities, the connections can now support their own leadership structure separate from Alumni Council. A vote in favor of this will remove connection chairs from the Alumni Council but incorporate them in the annual Volunteer Summit on campus held every fall.

**Proposed change 6:**

**Add a process for the removal of the president, executive committee members, or Alumni Council members via a majority vote of the Executive Committee in cases of excesses absences or other reasons.**

Impact: Currently, the Constitution and Bylaws do not have language to support the removal of the president, executive committee members, or Alumni Council members from serving. A vote in favor of this provides a structured process for removing members who miss a substantial number of meetings or for other reasons with a majority vote.

**Proposed change 7:**

**Reduce the mandated size of the Alumni Council while providing flexibility to increase or decrease as projects require.**

Impact: A vote in favor of this removes the required minimum of 42 members and allows the Alumni Council to flex up or down in size between a minimum of 30 and maximum of 40 members based on the current needs of the College, students, and alumni. At most liberal arts institutions as well as major universities, the alumni council typically comprises less than 25 members.

**Proposed change 8:**

**Allow the Alumni Council President to appoint additional members to the Executive Committee from the general membership of the Alumni Council based on project need.**

Impact: A vote in favor of this allows for additional leaders to be added to the Executive Committee as needed for specific projects. Recent examples of such needs include a focused leadership role on alumni mentoring as well as two members who developed the Day of Giving campaign to celebrate the College’s sesquicentennial.

**Proposed change 9:**

**Remove oversight of class presidents from Alumni Council.**

Impact: Currently, per the Constitution, the Alumni Council maintains oversight of the class president program. In practice, the College staff has performed this role in the recent past. A vote in favor of this would update language to reflect the current practice.