

COMMITTEE ON ALUMNI RELATIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

1. The Alumni Relations Committee has enjoyed a good attendance record, with new members, particularly students and faculty from a diverse set of schools, joining in the spring semester. The Committee concerned itself during the year with four major themes:
 - a. **Global Centers:** The Committee is particularly interested in partnering with the new Institute for Ideas that will be based out of Reid Hall in Paris. The Institute is a wonderful opportunity for Columbia to identify and engage local and global alumni in the diverse, innovative sectors of interest as potential participants, underwriters and general supporters. This holds true for the Global Centers as a whole.
 - b. **Entrepreneurship:** The Committee heard from Richard Witten, Special Advisor to the President, and Christopher McGarry, Director for Entrepreneurship in the Office of Alumni and Development, about entrepreneurship across the University. We will continue to explore ways in which alumni can help current students and more recent graduates develop their expertise as entrepreneurs.
 - c. **Lifetime Learning:** The School of Professional Studies is developing and expanding its course offering to be more oriented toward working professionals and just-in-time learning. This represents a potential opportunity for alumni to reengage with the School, and lend their voices to surveys about both types of and venues for learning globally.
 - d. **Career Services:** As a key component of every alumnus' life, career services continue to be an area the Committee wants to explore. This year, we placed less focus on this theme, but it features within other discussions, notably entrepreneurship and lifetime learning.

2. The Committee had a number of guest speakers this year. These speakers enhanced members' understanding of a number of different issues, particularly those that involve increasing alumni engagement. Athletics is one area that the Committee seeks to pursue further.

3. The Committee wants to actively partner with the other caucuses, especially Students and Faculty. It will continue to pursue these efforts next year.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Liebowitz and Kurt Roeloffs

Committee Co-Chairs

April 29, 2016

Committee Membership 2015-16

Nonten.	Anne Armstrong-Coben		P&S	sen
Nonten.	Mary E. Sormanti		SSW	sen
Stu.	Mark Logan Wright		LAW	sen
Research Officers	Smaranda Muresan		Research Officers - Professional	sen
Admin.	Donna MacPhee		Adm	nonsen
Alum.	Sharon Liebowitz	Co-Chair	Alum.	sen
Alum.	Kurt Roeloffs	Co-Chair	Alum.	sen

A number of other members of the Senate observed.