Program Committee Minutes from October 23 – 24 Fiftieth Reunion Planning Weekend

In attendance: Mary Hulings Rice, Polly Nason McCrea, Co-Chairs
Janet Foster Carroll, Linda Crawford Larson, Marjorie Benjamin Peterson,
Penny McLear Peterson, William Pickett
Staff Support: Naja Shabazz ’05

The meeting was called to order following lunch and a college update session with all committees. Our first task was to reiterate our committee’s primary responsibilities:
- To put together an interesting weekend with activities that will appeal to our class members.
- To create available time and social activities that will allow us to reconnect and catch up.
- To decorate the lounge and provide greeters for class events.
- To decide on an item that will identify our class and be worn in class photos and in the Parade of classes.
- To solicit applications for Alumni Awards recognizing class members for Distinguished Achievement and Exceptional Service, the recipients to be chosen by the Alumni Association.

We began our planning by discussing an optional two day pre-reunion get together in the Twin Cities. City tours and activities would begin Wednesday morning and finish in time to register for reunion late Thursday afternoon. Mary R. will research accommodations and activities/meals, with a goal of keeping it flexible from a cost and activity standpoint.

Mary Rice and John Schultz have been asked to organize our class meals and entertainment.

The available program times will be Friday 9:30 – 11:00, 1:30 – 4:30 and Saturday 8:00 – 9:30, 1:30 – 4:30. We discussed John Schultz’s letter of May 21 and the feedback he received for program (attached and long), ideas from absent committee members—Barbara Mauk, Lois Shumaker, Lois Phemister, and Helen Neal.

We came to the conclusion, after discussing many individual ideas and venues, that we will concentrate our efforts during this first meeting on developing themes that might have appeal to our class and would address our present thoughts and circumstances. The following are the topic areas we would like to pursue further, with the subsets and overlaps to be considered once we feel we have the “right” topics.

- The “green” revolution, which Kermit would say is “hard to understand and hard to do.” And how about green burial??
- The roles of women and how they have changed since 1962, both on campus and around the world.
- Aging in “place” including all the implications of remaining at home or choosing to live with others. How can we improve the choices for ourselves and our communities?
- Life planning – do we fear losing independence, control over ourselves and others? How plan-ful should we be? How do we view and/or achieve significance, balance, happiness, joy, peace?
- The information revolution – what does it mean for us and can we be, or should we be a part of it? Internet, social networking, instantaneous news and communications, etc.
We discussed using faculty, classmates, and other resources as we develop the specific programs. Helen Neal suggested a large tent adjacent to our housing that can be used for sun/rain shelter, socializing, and various programs and activities. Lots more to think about!

I am attaching reflections from Penny following our discussions as food for thought.

Our next step is to communicate these broad ideas (articulated in a much more interesting and humorous way by Mary) in a letter to our classmates. We will ask classmates what they have done of note and what they are aware that others have done. Bill has agreed to coordinate this effort with the class and Alumni Association. I am attaching his draft letter and list of previous awardees from our class.

Lois S. and Bill have been working together to develop a user friendly Spirit of ’62 website for planning, PR, Spirit of ’62 blogs and photos, and a multitude of other tasks. This will be coordinated with the Outreach Committee.

The Committee asked Bill to frame some questions (attached) that might bring insight on our class interests. Some of his questions may be helpful to Outreach in doing the biography book.

Respectfully submitted by a non-English major,
Polly McCrea