The Ins and Outs of Your Class Council

What is a Class Council?

- The Class Council is a group of classmates interested in the well-being of the class who are not currently serving as executive class officers
- Members of the council may be former officers, potential future officers, leaders in other Cornell alumni activities, former or potential reunion committee members, or classmates who are willing to help once in a while, but don’t want the responsibility of being an executive class officer

Why Have One?

- It provides an opportunity to engage more alumni in the life of your class
- The workload is spread out amongst more classmates
- It can provide an entry point for your classmates to get involved in alumni activities

Ways to Effectively Use and Engage Your Class Council:

- Communicate with members of your class council on a regular basis
- Keep them aware of the highlights of what’s happening rather than concerning them with all the details
  - Communicating the highlights makes it much easier to ask members for assistance or for members to volunteer to assist with an activity when they feel they have expertise to share and time available to take on an assignment
- A technique that the Class of ’79 uses quite effectively is to copy via email all class council members on the agendas and minutes of class officer meetings
- Other examples:
  - Contact classmates to ask them to pay/renew their class dues
  - Host regional events such as birthday (40th, 50th, etc.) or pre-reunion parties
  - Help to find your missing classmates’ addresses
  - Keep a defined group of classmates (e.g. those in a particular special interest group or geography) informed of what’s happening with the class
  - Serve on the reunion planning or campaign committee
How to Recruit Members for Your Class Council

- The president should develop a list of potential members (see first section) and then write a short letter or email asking the person to become a member of the class council
  - Follow-up and contact the person via phone or in person and explain to them the role of a class council member and that you would really like them to serve in the role
- Once they accept, be sure to let your staff contact in Class & Reunion Programs know
  - List them on your class website
  - Include them on your class letterhead