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A PLAN FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF THE ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Present Status

1. At present the Alumni have organized and are organizing into local Associations. In enthusiasm and willingness to do their part nothing more could be desired, but in definite activities the Associations have advanced not far beyond the social gathering of University Day and support of certain scholarships at the University, helpful and timely though these are. There is potential energy in these Associations which should be directed to more definite accomplishments.

2. The General Association of the Alumni at present is a loose organization without relationship whatsoever to the Local Association. It meets once a year at Alumni Luncheon held in Commons Hall during commencement, hears a brief report from the President of the University, appoints a toastmaster and listens to many speeches serious and entertaining, arousing much enthusiasm, signs its names in the Visitors' Register and adjourns until next commencement. Much wise council has been forthcoming from these banquets and achievement of no small results, as the building of Memorial Hall and Alumni Hall bear evidence—just enough to show splendid possibilities in a body of this kind thoroughly organized and working on business principles. Can the General Association of the Alumni be organized in a more compact body with definite functions and specific activities?

A Plan Proposed

1. That there be a General Assembly of the Alumni to convene in Gerard Hall, Monday of Commencement week, 1911. That this General Assembly be composed of delegates from the local Associations having the right of voting according to a fair basis of representation—e. g:

Associations of between		
12 and 10 members,	1	vote
10 and 20	2	votes
20 and 30	3	votes
30 and 50	4	votes
50 and 100	5	votes
100 and 150	6	votes
over 150	7	votes

or, any other reasonable basis of representation; alumni not affiliated with any local Association to have the privilege of the floor but not the right of voting.

This General Assembly at that meeting shall elect a temporary Chairman and Secretary and then at once proceed to the election of an ALUMNI COUNCIL to be composed of — members

("Councilmen"), one of whom shall be appointed by the President of the University from the Faculty. A relatively small number of Councilmen should be retired automatically each year and their places filled by newly elected men a well known device which insures continuity and consistency of policy, while it provides against over conservation.

This Alumni Council shall elect its own officers, a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be also the permanent officers of the General Assembly until next election.

The Alumni Council shall manage all the business of the General Assembly of the Alumni; it should have the power of initiation of policies independent of instructions; the power to raise, invest, and appropriate all funds; charge of the organization and direction of the Local Associations; of the publication of a magazine to be known as The University of North Carolina Alumni Monthly; the care of collecting historical and biographical data concerning the Alumni, of disseminating knowledge which involves the good of the University; and other functions such as will suggest themselves.

2. For the Local Associations, the outline of their activities is intended to be only suggestive. They should be left to formulate their own machinery of organization. They are to elect their respective delegates to the General Assembly and instruct them, if need be, to express in the General Assembly the sense of their Association on questions of vital interest to the University and its Alumni. The secretaries of the Associations should be the correspondents of The Alumni Monthly, keeping accurate records of all matters of interest pertaining to members of their Associations. Each Association should guarantee so many subscriptions to The Alumni Monthly.

The plan of supporting a scholarship at the University if all such scholarships were made competitive, the examinations for the award of them to be held on a specific day under the County or State Board of Examiners. The Association would find its interest in this matter on the increase if it required from its student regular reports of studies and progress, and his presence at certain meetings of the Association—in other words, took personal interest in him. Through him the Association would be in touch with the University in a very live way.

One word about this. Careful thought will bring conviction that the most effective instrument for welding our great body of Alumni into a well-organized militant army would be a live monthly paper. A prospectus of such a magazine, modeled after the Yale Alumni Weekly, and an estimate of the cost of publication have been carefully prepared, and will be laid before the General Assembly of the Alumni at its first meeting. With a mailing list of over 3500 Alumni, a board of editors ready and willing to edit it without salary, and forty correspondents already in the field, such a paper should prove a financial success. As a bond between University men, a medium of expression to the public at large, an agent for advertising the University, it should prove of supremest value.

We commit this paper to the Assembly with the request that definite recommendations on it be returned to the Committee.

W. S. Bernard
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