

September 9, 2012

Greetings fellow Outing Club alumni and friends,

As you all know, we will be having the annual Alumni meeting at homecoming in roughly two weeks. I and some other Alumni have been thinking about the future direction of the club, and the way that we vote and conduct our business as an organization.

After many conversations, many different Outing club alumni have expressed that it is a shame that, while they care deeply about the club and its purpose, they are frequently unable to attend the annual meeting. The alumni association is spread out over much of the country and overall, it represents a group of individuals that on the whole, have been pretty successful. Yet, most folks can't afford the time to come back, and since all decisions are made at the meeting and one doesn't get a vote unless one is present, they don't get a say in the direction of and running of the club and the cabin. This hurts the club overall because those Alumni begin to feel they don't have much control or say in the direction of the club. In today's hectic and busy world, if you don't feel you have a say in something, you often stop being involved in it. And what you are not involved in, you stop supporting, and this hurts the club as a whole.

With this in mind, the idea of electronic voting was tossed around, in which everyone who is an active member of the Grove City College Outing Club Alumni Association (GCCOCAA, which is quite a mouthful) would have a chance to cast an electronic vote on the issues facing the club, even though they might not be able to attend the meeting. In order to make something like this possible however, it is first necessary to define exactly who is and who can be a member of the GCCOCAA, so that we can know who should be able to get a vote.

What follows is my proposal of how we should define our membership and how we should set up a system of voting electronically. It is based upon many conversations with Outing Club Alum of different ages, and I am going to put it forward at this year's meeting for a vote. Please look it over and consider it. If you have strong feelings one way or another on it, please consider coming to homecoming this year as we will be voting on whether to put this plan into place. It is my hope that this will make the club stronger by getting more people involved and tapping the knowledge of the large number of talented Alumni that are out there.

**Proposal for defining membership in the GCCOCAA:**

To be eligible to be a member of the GCCOCAA, a person must have attended Grove City College and have been an active member of the student club for at least one semester while attending. The sole exception to this will be social membership (defined below). The student club will define what is required to be an active student member. As accurate records are not always available or were not kept in the past, the club will depend on the good faith of the membership to determine who was active as a student in

the past. Anyone, prior to 2012, who states they were active or who currently receives the Axe & Saw will be considered eligible for membership.

There will be three types of members in the GCCOCAA:

Active members:

Active Alumni Members will be expected to pay annual dues of \$10 (due before the next year's meeting). These dues will entitle the member to regular personal use of the cabin and a personal code to the cabin lock. The dues will also entitle the member to a voice and vote at the annual meeting or the ability to cast an electronic vote within one month of the annual meeting.

Inactive Members:

Inactive Alumni Members will be those alumni who do not choose to pay dues. These members will not receive voting rights and will not receive a personal code to the cabin, but can request to access to the cabin at anytime.

Social Members:

Social Alumni Members will be those members who are affiliated with the organization in some way but did not attend Grove City College and were not active members of the student club. A social member must be:

- A professor or member of the Grove City College Staff.
- An immediate family member of a current or past Alumni association member.
- A close friend of the GCCOCAA who is voted social membership by a majority vote of the active membership

Social members will not receive voting rights.

Social members will be able to have personal use of the cabin and a personal code by paying annual dues of \$10.

### **Proposal for Electronic Voting of Club Decisions:**

The annual meeting of the GCCOCAA shall be held at 2:00 p.m. on the Sunday of homecoming weekend of Grove City College.

Topics of discussion for the meeting can be proposed at the meeting. It is however encouraged that any topic which members wish to bring forth for consideration should be proposed in advance to the Alumni Discussion list (at [www.gccoc.org](http://www.gccoc.org)) so that the membership can consider it. It is also highly encouraged that all members of the club join the Alumni mailing list so that they can be part of the discussion on the topics affecting the organization.

The Minutes of the Alumni meeting and a summary of votes taken will be made available online via the Alumni mailing list or on the GCCOCAA website within one week of the meeting.

Voting will be limited to those active members of the GCCOCAA. These members can either cast their vote at the meeting, or if they are absent, they may cast their vote electronically within 3 weeks of the posting of the minutes from the annual meeting. Hopefully, this time can serve as a period for discussion of the issues at hand, so that, the club will benefit from having more people able to share their opinions and views. After 3 weeks voting will be closed.

The precise method of casting an electronic vote will be developed over the next year by the officers. The system chosen will ensure accountability, security, and will be discussed with the membership before it is put into place. While the exact procedure will depend upon the technology chosen, the basic plan will be for votes to be cast electronically. The officers / system will then tally these votes and make the totals available to the membership by both the Alumni e-mail list and on the GCCOCAA website.

The election of officers will also be done in a similar method, by electronic voting and in person voting at the meeting but officers may not be nominated by electronically. Nominations must be made at the annual meeting. Those nominated do not need to be present to accept a nomination.

I realize that is quite a bit of information to digest. Let it soak in and think of any questions or comments over the next 2 weeks. Realize that the intended goal of this is to help make the club stronger and to do that we need everyone who cares about the club to have a say.