

Lebanon NH 03766
January 14, 2010

Joe Asch has asked me to write a letter in connection with his candidacy as a petition candidate for the Dartmouth Board of Trustees. With the stipulation that the letter not be excerpted, but only distributed in its entirety, I'm happy to have an opportunity to recognize Joe's positive engagement with Dartmouth College.

I first became aware of Joe when other faculty told me about an alum who attended their summer session classes. They said he repeatedly had their classes to his house for dinner, and there he encouraged a kind of "symposium" for students of all political orientations to debate readings, issues, and perspectives they'd developed in the class. By all reports these were very generous and gracious events that built class *esprit* and furthered the intellectual engagement of the class.

I had more direct engagement with Joe when he approached my department with the offer to support what he called "a department editor." The department editor was someone to whom we could direct students for individual guidance in the mechanics of writing—punctuation, organization, word choice—before they turned in their papers to instructors. This turned out to be pedagogically an enormously helpful aid that enriched our teaching efforts, over a number of years. Joe funded this position in our department (Religion) and two other departments for quite a while. Over seven years Joe must have spend a very considerable amount of his money in a way that directly benefitted both teachers and students at Dartmouth College.

I do need to note that I have real reservations about what I would call "the petition movement," particularly the "culture struggle" aspect—an attempt, as I see it, to impose a particular ideology on the College. Worse yet has been the pointless, costly, and punitive lawsuit over the issue of the Board of Trustees' membership. And like many, I've been disheartened by the personal animus that has been expressed in criticisms of the College and its administration—this from people who claim to "love Dartmouth College." Like many, I've thought, "with friends like this..."

I wanted nonetheless to record my personal gratitude to Joe Asch who has supported the educational efforts of Dartmouth in the most tangible way. He has shown that he understands the importance of student-centered education at Dartmouth, and he has been personally generous to students and to the College. For that he deserves our gratitude.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Reinhart". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

A. Kevin Reinhart