**Occasionally alumni challenge our need for support by raising good points. Here are some responses to frequently asked questions:**

**Doesn’t DA already have enough money?**

* We can understand how it may seem like Deerfield has “enough” money, but we are third/fourth place for endowment per student among our peer schools.
* Deerfield's annual operating budget is comprised from the following funding sources: approximately 50% tuition, 30% endowment, 15% from the Annual Fund (including directed gifts) and 5 % miscellaneous income…so annual fund dollars are an important piece of the school’s operating budget.
* Yes, our model is expensive… but that expense is why Deerfield created so much meaning in your life.
* Deerfield is a multiplier: we teach 200 kids each year to go out and do good.
* If you wish, you can restrict your donation to our community service programs… help those in Franklin County… or Africa.
* About 1/3 of our students are on financial aid—and a third of those essentially pay nothing to attend Deerfield. Your contribution helps enable them to attend Deerfield.

**Objections to a specific donor/leader at Deerfield:**

* We can understand how you might object to a specific donor or leader at Deerfield, but Deerfield is more than a current administrator or even the entire administration. Regardless of short-term issues or frustrations, Deerfield is timeless… and it endures.
* Rest assured that quid pro quo simply does not happen: Deerfield turns down donations if there are strings attached.
* No donor specifies the way we run our program. We do not consider politics or personal agendas when designing Deerfield’s curriculum.

**Diluted focus on one or more areas of Deerfield’s program:**

* I understand that you may have concerns about a specific program at Deerfield, but every program on campus has people who feel that that program is suffering from a lack of focus or resources.
* Some programs that are popular with alumni are virtually extinct in student eyes: the radio station, for example, had zero student interest when it was shut down… and students could not understand why alumni were so upset.
* As part of Imagine Deerfield, we are investing in coaching and recruiting in order to improve the competitiveness of our sports programs.
* As part of Imagine Deerfield, we creating a new Arts Center—investing over $30 million in the program.
* As part of Imagine Deerfield we’re redesigning the curriculum, introducing new technologies, collaborative teaching, inquiry based education, and capstones. We are investing heavily in our faculty.

**Erosion of certain traditions/values:**

* In terms of the decisions surrounding the selection of Captain Deerfield, the culture around Captain Deerfield had become divisive and hurtful—which you’d agree is the opposite of what Deerfield values. We continue to look at this position and make adjustments to see how to best meet everyone’s goals.
* In regards to a concern that Choate Day has less attendance/participation, most Deerfield students still travel to Choate Day to compete! We’re investing more in Choate Day, making it a bigger event more akin to a traditional homecoming.
* In regards to strong feelings about coeducation, it has been 25 years, so if you have strong feelings about coeducation this many years on, then we’re not going to convince you to change your mind. What I hope we can agree on is that Deerfield is better and stronger today than it’s ever been.
* In terms of the challenges people associate with coeducation, these are in fact related to different changes: a slightly larger student body, a more rigorous academic program, and greater competition in athletics and recruiting from our peers. These larger forces have shaped Deerfield far more powerfully than the return to coeducation.

**Unhappy with the outcome of a student-specific decision:**

* We are all proud that Deerfield is one of the most selective schools in the world. Yet Deerfield’s student body is approximately 40% the children or siblings of alumni, so there IS preference there. Still, obviously it’s a painful process when any candidate is denied admission. In this case, Deerfield’s size—which is so important in making it the place we treasure—is the limiting factor.
* In terms of admissions decisions, it is unfair to a child to admit them to Deerfield if they will not be happy or successful here.
* In terms of disciplinary cases, the cases often involve details that remain confidential, so only the committee itself—which includes student leaders as well as faculty—can really know the reasoning behind a certain decision. Deerfield remains a “two strike” school, unlike many of our peers.

**Reunions:**

* Alcohol is plentiful at Reunions. We do what we can to ensure that no one gets hurt. It’s not perfect, but we make adjustments every year in the hope of striking the right balance.
* Younger classes are welcome for the entire Reunion weekend. (Several years ago, for a single year, the Academy experimented with having young alumni on campus only for Saturday night, but we agree that it wasn’t a good idea!)
* You’re right. The tickets are expensive. We’re working on that.

**Other?**

We’re happy to have a conversation if you/ a fellow alum has questions about a specific issue at Deerfield. Please contact Betsey Dickson ’94, Director of the Annual Fund.