

June 9, 2007 – Antioch University Board of Trustees resolves to declare financial exigency and suspend operations of Antioch College effective June 30, 2008. The surprise decision is announced to students, staff, faculty, alumni and the world in a June 11 press release.

June 15, 2007 – A shell-shocked College community looks on as a Homeland Security SWAT team stages a simulated terrorist bombing in the library.

June 19, 2007 – Faculty issues statement citing the Board's 2004 Renewal Plan as the main culprit in the recent decline in enrollments and urges the Board to consider alternatives to the suspension.

June 21-24, 2007 – Galvanized by the trustees' decision, hundreds of alumni from across the country drop everything and book last-minute flights, swamping the College's annual reunion. Several hundred are expected. Twice that many show up, some pitching tents on campus grounds, and begin organizing to reverse the planned suspension. Chancellor Toni Murdock advises alumni that the University is talking to developers about uses for the campus. Alumni establish an independent College Revival Fund, with the goal of keeping the College open and gaining its autonomy from the University.

July 20, 2007 – Former trustees Dan Kaplan, Laura Markham and Barbara Winslow write current trustees urging negotiations towards an independent College. In an August reply to Board Chairman Art Zucker, they are joined by 21 more former trustees, including five former chairs and two former vice chairs. Collectively, the group has contributed more than 200 years of service on the board. University hires Simpson Scarborough, a Washington, DC boutique PR firm headed by a former Washington Times editor and Strom Thurmond aide, for communications counsel.

August 11, 2007 – In commencement speech, University Chancellor Toni Murdock skewers "a distrust by a small group of alumni and former trustees, who are very vocal, in the ability of the Board and the University to reinvent a College that reflects the values and traditions of the original College." Quoting from Thomas Friedman's "The World Is Flat," Murdock says: "The hallmark of a truly successful organization is the willingness to abandon what made it successful and start fresh," adding that "upon the College's return, it must embrace the University concept, not operate in isolation, and become an active participant in the University system."

August 14, 2007 – College faculty file lawsuit in Greene County Common Pleas Court asking the court to enjoin Antioch University from suspending College operations, terminating College faculty and disposing of any College assets. University cancels planned webinar on College finances in response.

August 15, 2007 – AntiochPapers.org, an “open archive for primary source materials that document the institutional life of Antioch College and, by extension, Antioch University,” debuts with previously undisclosed board documents noting plans for developing the College campus and spending \$25 million on new construction at the University’s Seattle campus.

August 17-19, 2007 – Alumni chapters nationwide hold a series of “Save Antioch Weekend” events, raising \$5.3 million for the College Revival Fund.

August 23, 2007 – More than 70 new students arrive at the College for the fall semester, despite the impending suspension.

August 25, 2007 – Board of Trustees resolves to “work with” the Alumni Board, requests that they present business plan by October 28 meeting of trustees.

August 31, 2007 –College President Steven Lawry’s resignation announced. Lawry had been expected to stay through the end of the year. Inside Higher Education reports: “While several press accounts and statements from Antioch officials over the weekend implied that the decision was Lawry’s, multiple knowledgeable sources said that Murdock forced Lawry to leave because she was angry over his public calls for reform of the college’s governance.” Dean of Faculty Andrzej Bloch is named chief operating officer, replacing Lawry as the College’s chief executive. College alumni relations and development office is sent home early, locks are changed and email accounts are blocked.

September 4, 2007 – College faculty votes no confidence in University chancellor, calls for reformation of College as an independent and self-governing institution. College community, including students, staff and faculty, follows suit Oct. 8.

September 22, 2007 – Antioch University McGregor opens a new \$14.6 million, 94,000-square-foot campus across town from the College. The University was previously housed on the College campus.

October 3, 2007 – Alumni Board members meet with University trustees and administrators in Denver to discuss draft business plan for continued operations of the College. Over the next several weeks, Alumni Board releases drafts of fundraising, governance and administrative plans in answer to the Board of Trustees’ requests.

October 25-28, 2007 – College hosts Homecoming series of events around Alumni Board-Board of Trustees negotiations taking place in Yellow Springs.

Alumni Board presents plan to raise \$25 million in 2008 and \$100 million over the following five years while making College largely autonomous. Trustees postpone planned vote on lifting suspension Oct. 27, citing “very complex, long-standing matters of critical importance.” Alumni board has raised \$18 million in cash and pledges already.

November 3, 2007 – Board of Trustees reverses suspension, conditional upon Alumni Board meeting tough fundraising benchmarks. Trustees agree to pursue plans for a separate College Board of Trustees under Agreement in Principle document. Declaration of financial exigency remains in effect. Under the agreement, the Alumni Board must make a series of fundraising deadlines, transferring \$2 million to the University within 10 days, an additional \$4.6 million by Dec. 15, \$12 million by May 31 2008, \$26 million by June 2009 and \$19 million by June 2010. Faculty withdraw lawsuit against University ten days later.

November 9, 2007 – College COO Bloch writes a provocative letter to faculty advising that “it is important to understand that the Declaration of Financial Exigency made by the Board of Trustees in June still stands. The notices of termination issued by President Lawry to tenured and non-tenured faculty in June 2007 remain in force and effect.” Alumni Board calls for retraction of Bloch’s letter, saying that “A letter that hides behind financial exigency to declare that most of the faculty ‘won’t be rehired past June 2008’ is in no way collaborative, accurate, respectful of tenure, nor in any way a part of the shared vision for Antioch College.” Bloch later apologizes for tone of the statement, saying it was drafted by University counsel, but reaffirms its gist.

November 12, 2007 – Alumni Board meets first fundraising benchmark with transfer of \$2 million to the University.

November 13, 2007 – Chancellor Murdock advises College Administrative Council that the College cannot recruit new students until alumni meet fundraising benchmarks and the College’s financial situation. Murdock and COO Bloch later add that they “and are convinced that current and potential donors will grow in confidence and support our effort to resume the recruitment of first year students as soon as it is academically and fiscally feasible, and in accordance with the established standards of the accrediting agencies,” suggesting that accrediting agency guidelines prohibit recruitment, which they do not. The Yellow Springs News later paraphrases Bloch as saying that: “the University has determined that the College doesn’t yet have a financially viable plan of its own that will convince the University it can attract enough students to sustain operations there.”

November 22, 2007 – The Yellow Springs News reports that “many major donors are balking” over concerns about a continued lack of autonomy for the

College and its inability to recruit new students. Over the next several weeks, major donors meet with trustees in New York and Dallas directly.

December 11, 2007 – Board of Trustees announces that it has instructed the chancellor “to begin exploring the possibility of transferring the ownership of Antioch College to a separate, free-standing liberal arts institution with its own board of trustees” in negotiations with the Antioch College Continuation Corporation (ACCC), a non-profit corporation comprised of alumni, major donors, former trustees and emeritus faculty. Chancellor is to present a letter of intent to the trustees by their February 21-23 meeting, and a transfer would take place July 1, 2008. Negotiations with the ACCC void and supersede the Agreement in Principle with the Alumni Board. ACCC members visit campus to talk to students, staff and faculty in December and January.

January 28, 2008 – ACCC delivers Letter of Intent to operate the College to Antioch University.

February 22, 2008 – Antioch University issues press release announcing reinstatement of planned suspension of operations, says trustees “ran out of time to reach an agreement on the transfer of the college to the independent corporation,” despite ongoing negotiations with the ACCC, which was disallowed from presenting their business plan to the trustees at their meeting. ACCC chair Eric Bates characterizes the University release as “unhelpful.” College COO Bloch later says there was no vote on the matter by trustees “because there was nothing to vote on. The college has always been under suspension.”

February 29, 2008 – University threatens to sue The Antioch Papers if it does not remove documents they claim are proprietary and confidential. The proprietors of the site decline.

March 2, 2008 – Alumni Association and College Revival Fund announce plan, dubbed “Non-Stop Antioch,” to carry on operations of the College in Yellow Springs past suspension by the University, should negotiations between the ACCC and trustees fail. College Revival Fund commits \$1 million toward the effort. Alumni Association/College Revival Fund VP Ellen Borgersen says: “it’s time to stop pretending that the University is negotiating in good faith with the ACCC. The University is clearly trying to force people to abandon hope and leave, knowing that it will be impossible to bring the College back once that happens.”

March 11, 2008 – College faculty announce that they have refiled their lawsuit against the University, which they withdrew without prejudice following the University’s November Agreement in Principle with the Alumni Board, saying “It’s clear that the University Board of Trustees is not negotiating in good

faith.”

March 14, 2008 – Antioch University McGregor hosts presentation by Dayton Development Coalition on military Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) monies expected to flood into the region as neighboring Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, a survivor in the latest round of base consolidations, absorbs personnel and resources from closings elsewhere. McGregor President Barbara Gellman-Danley serves on the board of the Coalition, which advises on allocation of region’s BRAC funds. Economic impact of the College’s closing and its impact on the village’s attractiveness to military personnel are key undertones of the meeting.

March 15, 2008 – College alumni, students, staff and faculty picket Antioch University McGregor, saying negotiations between the trustees and the ACCC “have been undermined by a few members of the University Board of Trustees and its Chancellor, Toni Murdock.”

March 18, 2008 – The Seattle Times asks: “Can Antioch here survive woes at flagship campus?” Antioch University Seattle President is quoted in March 24 Diverse Issues in Higher Education saying the school has seen a “slight dip” in enrollment due to publicity around the College’s impending closure. Inside Higher Education publishes open letter by Cary Nelson, president of the American Association of University Professors and husband of trustee Paula Treichler, urging trustees to accept ACCC’s \$10 million offer to take over the College. Chancellor Murdock calls letter “uninformed, naïve.” Antioch University and ACCC announce they have had a “productive meeting.”

March 20, 2008 – Alumni leaflet One Dupont Circle in Washington, DC, home to many higher education associations, seeking their support in keeping the College open.

March 27, 2008 -- In a deposition for the faculty lawsuit, trustee Paula Treichler testifies that the chair of the board’s finance committee told trustees they needed to “lay aside the emotional aspects” of declaring financial exigency because it was the only way to expunge tenured faculty. Also says director of institutional advancement was inhibited from doing her job by University administrators and that alumni alienation from University stymied fundraising efforts.

March 28, 2008 – Negotiations break down as trustees reject a \$12.2 million offer for the College from the ACCC, saying the ACCC “failed to provide adequate security for \$6.2M of the purchase price.” The ACCC offers half up front and half over five years. Trustees want it all up front. In addition, the University refuses to include WYSO, a University-owned Yellow Springs NPR affiliated radio station housed on the College campus, in the deal. ACCC’s

David Goodman says “We were fully prepared to provide the University with not one, but two forms of security: a mortgage on the campus, and a provision that the College and its assets would revert to the University if the ACCC were unable to continue operations. The ACCC's offer was both financially reasonable and legally enforceable, but the University made clear that they would not accept the offer – even if their creditors were satisfied with the agreement.”

March 29, 2008 – University issues cryptic press release saying it “welcomes the Antioch College Continuation Corporation (ACCC), other alumni, and any other parties to come forward in an effort to bridge the remaining differences.” AP reports: “An Antioch University spokesman says the school is offering its flagship Antioch College for sale to any buyer that can provide the full payment up front,” though University later clarifies that it will only deal with the ACCC. The Dayton Daily News notes: “Chancellor Toni Murdock said the university has significant bond debt on the new Antioch University McGregor building in Yellow Springs, and buildings in Seattle and in Keene, N.H.” Board Vice Chair Dan Fallon tells an alum in an email that: “The \$12.2 million is the minimum cash required to stabilize the bonds held by the University.”

March 30, 2008 – ACCC says its “10-10” plan, which would give the University \$10 million in exchange for 10 seats on the 19-member board, represents “one final option” to save the College. “This way the college can stay open because the same entity owns the college, but allows us more time to work on independence,” says ACCC co-chair Eric Bates. ACCC charges the University with erecting a “series of obstacles to impede negotiations,” most recently professed concern over the security of payments for the College. Bates says: “At one point, nearly an entire month was lost because the University continued to demand that the ACCC pay \$54 million for the College’s assets. Under this absurd and outrageous demand, the College would have been required to ‘buy’ its own endowment from the University, at a cost of \$22 million. Rather than seeking to find a solution that would benefit all parties involved, the University chose instead to engage in profiteering that prevented a timely and mutual resolution.” ACCC’s Dr. Laura Markham says the group’s \$10 million offer “stands in stark contrast to the \$25,000 reportedly given by the current trustees in this fiscal year.”

March 31, 2008 – Alumni Association calls for full Board of Trustees to meet with ACCC, concerned that the University negotiating team has been thwarting progress. Board of Trustees chair Art Zucker tells Inside Higher Education that the University will sue Nonstop Antioch if it uses the Antioch name, says despite bitterness, alumni major donors will come around and contribute to University relaunch of College after a few years.

April 2, 2008 – University issues Notice of Termination and Campus Closing,

advising most employees that they will be laid off – starting with alumni relations and development staff, who are terminated that day. Also on the list: the director of the Coretta Scott King Center, which the University had decreed would be closed. She receives the news on the day before the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination.

April 9, 2008 -- Faculty, having withdrawn suit in March, refile.

April 10, 2008 – Nonstop Antioch announces new staff and offices directly across the street from the College. Former College Director of Institutional Advancement Risa Grimes named executive director, and entire College alumni relations and development staff is brought on board.

April 16, 2008 – ACCC and trustees hold face to face meeting in Columbus, Ohio. University issues release vowing decision by College commencement.

April 20, 2008 – Board of Trustees Vice Chair Dan Fallon tells *The New York Times*: “We are all witless victims of a structure that was not capable of or agile enough to manage a residential undergraduate liberal arts college.”

April 26, 2008 – April 26, 2008 – College hosts 156th commencement ceremony, graduating 119 students. Still no decision from trustees. In her graduation speech, Alumni Board President Nancy Crow says: “Every era of alumni, it seems, goes through cataclysmic events on this beloved campus, on this revered mound. We have all weathered controversy and struggles; yours have been unprecedented and epic. I stand before you to let you know that your fellow alumni honor and respect everything that you've gone through in your Antioch career. Your brave hearts, activism, and community organizing and participation have been shining examples in these uncertain times. You remind us what it is to be an Antiochian.”

April 28, 2008 – Board of Trustees agrees to accept ACCC offer, but vote falls short of required margin and resolution is postponed for ten days.

May 8, 2008 – Board of Trustees rejects ACCC offer of \$9.5 million to the College up front, plus another \$6 million for the other campuses, in exchange for 8 board seats, with an additional four to be jointly designated by the ACCC and existing board members. Says ACCC director Lee Morgan: “Under this agreement, the University would have gained a number of experienced trustees who bring tremendous resources - not just finances, but expertise and energy - on behalf of the entire University.” Key board members were unable to make the vote and one trustee known to favor a deal resigned under pressure that day for allegedly breaching board confidentiality in conversation with alumni.

June 5-8, 2008 – Trustees meeting in Keene, NH are greeted by a delegation of alumni. After hearing University plans for a “revival” of the College, the trustees unanimously resolve to “request the [Alumni] Association create the necessary process, plans, and resources for the development of an independent four-year, residential, liberal arts college in Yellow Springs, Ohio, and a business plan for the transfer of assets from the University.”

June 10-12, 2008 – Members of the Alumni Board met with members of the ACCC, to discuss building upon the solid platform that they had crafted over the past few months.

June 13, 2008 – In a letter to all alumni, Alumni Board President Nancy Crow says: “Alumni have asked: How is this resolution different from other actions of the Board of Trustees? It is startlingly different, because the University Trustees have now agreed to full independence and separation from the University. This isn’t the same agreement that held sway briefly back in November, under which the College would have its own board that reported to a university board of governors. This isn’t members of the alumni association taking seats on the board for the entire university. This is complete independence from Antioch University...Going forward, this is the first time the alumni have been asked to control the process for making a thriving independent Antioch College happen. In the past, we have worked within prescribed and restrictive processes. Now, we set the agenda; we come up with the timeline, we name the trustees of the new Antioch College Board of Trustees who will oversee the revival of Antioch College and take responsibility for its continuing health.”

June 19-22, 2008 – Antioch College Reunion. Highlights include a State of the College from Alumni Board President Nancy Crow, saying: “Here’s what’s going on right now: The Alumni Board is crafting a letter of intent with the Board of Trustees for the transfer of the historical assets of Antioch College to an independent College Board of Trustees. This letter will embody the principles of the Resolution passed unanimously by the alumni at last year’s Reunion...Once a letter of intent has been signed, the next step is to put in place a Board of Trustees for an independent Antioch College. The Alumni Board’s Governance Committee has been developing qualifications for board members and identifying candidates for the past year. The new Board will take responsibility for initiating a national search for a new College president and oversee the renovation of the College buildings and curriculum.”

There was also a State of the College from Ellen Borgersen, Vice President of the Alumni Board and Acting President of the College Revival Fund (CRF), where she talked about Plan B, the legal recourse: “There are six kinds of claims that we are supporting. The central action is a “derivative” suit on behalf the Antioch University Corporation itself, for injuries inflicted on it by its Administration and Board, such as damage to Antioch’s reputation, its ability to recruit qualified students, faculty, and administrators, and the destruction of the U’s most valuable asset – Antioch College – by forcing it into closure. The people with standing to bring this action are sitting Trustees. And if the Trustees say

no to the offer from the Alumni Ass'n that they have solicited – if they say no again, we will be looking to some of those Trustees to start this action.

Other lawsuits in preparation are claims by donors who contributed to the Antioch College, to either the Annual Fund or the Capital Campaign, at a time when University personnel knew that the College would be closed and failed to disclose that fact to donors; claims by students who were promised, and awarded scholarships for a four-year Antioch education; and claims on behalf of donors of restricted funds that may have been misappropriated.”

Arguably the biggest highlight at Reunion 2008 was presentations from the faculty about the curriculum for the Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute. The Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute is supported by the College Revival Fund and Antioch College alumni. Videos of the presentations can be found on YouTube and will be going out to chapters.

Also, college alumni passed the “Antioch College Revival Resolution 2008” which can be read at antiochians.org.

June 17, 2008 – The Alumni Board and the University Board of Trustees names a taskforce to assist with the development of plans called for in the Keene resolution. The taskforce consists of College alumni Matthew Derr and Lee Morgan, University Trustees Dan Fallon and Jack Merselis, as well as the Great Lakes College Association president Richard Detweiler. The Alumni Board and the University BOT both pass a resolution that stipulates the shared premise of their work, available at antiochians.org.

August 8, 2008 – Lee Morgan and Matthew Derr hold a community meeting in Yellow Springs with Antioch College and Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute faculty, students, community members, Yellow Springs townspeople, and supporters.

August 8, 2008 – The taskforce announce that they have hired advisors to help them with the many issues separating the College from the University: George K. Baum. Co., an investment banking firm with an industry-leading municipal bond business; and Higher Education Practice Group of Bond, Schoeneck and King, PLLC. This legal team is comprised of attorneys who provide a full range of services on issues related to colleges and universities. The fees for both of these advisors are being paid for by grants from the Morgan Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

August 20, 2008 – The Antioch College Alumni Board passes the charge to the Antioch College Board of Trustees Pro Tem. Read it at antiochians.org.

August 20, 2008 – The Antioch College Alumni Board names the first five members of the Antioch College Board of Trustees Pro Tem: Matthew Derr

'89, Atis Folkmanis '62, Frances Degen Horowitz '54, Lee Morgan '66, and Barbara Slaner Winslow '68.

August 21, 2008 – Nonstop Liberal Arts Institute presents its Fall Academic Open House