

# BENNINGTON COLLEGE

**TO:** Faculty, Staff, and Students

**FR:** Mariko Silver, President

April 30, 2019

The fire is out. No students, faculty, or staff were injured. The firefighter who was injured has been released from the hospital. The damage to the Barn was largely contained to where it began: the southeast section, which contains Barn 124, the President's office, Communications, and the Bookstore on the ground floor; and three classrooms and nine faculty offices upstairs.

The response from local fire departments was extraordinary. The response teams included volunteer and municipal fire departments from three counties, and included faculty member Andrew Cencini and staff member Joe Vadakin, both of whom are volunteer firefighters. We are immensely grateful to all of them for their remarkable efforts in saving the Barn.

A few operational updates:

- The Barn will be closed until structural inspections can be made.
- Classes will take place tomorrow. The Dean's Office will be emailing faculty and students to share relocation information.
- Students who have appointments scheduled with faculty or staff with offices in the Barn should contact them directly to learn where meetings will be held.
- Andy Schlatter has shared information about where offices will be relocated with department heads. Staff should be in touch with their respective department heads to discuss working remotely and/or temporary accommodations.
- For faculty and staff: If phones need to be re-routed, please submit a [helpdesk ticket](#) with your extension number and let us know whether you would like your number moved to another physical phone location (please specify) or forwarded to a cell number (please specify the forwarding number).

This has been a long and unsettling day, with more work to be done, but it is in these difficult times that the true mettle of our community is revealed. Thank you to everyone for their work, patience, and generosity of spirit.