
Board Approves Budget & Salary Increase

President Laura Walker <president@bennington.edu>

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BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Good afternoon,

I am pleased to relay that on Friday, June 2, the Board of Trustees approved the FY23 budget, which included a 2.5% general increase for eligible non-union Bennington College employees. The increase will be effective July 1. Union staff will also receive a salary adjustment effective this same date, as outlined in the collective bargaining agreement.

I would like to thank all involved in planning departmental budgets. Together with ambitious fundraising goals, their work has enabled us to present a plan for a balanced budget on a cash basis inclusive of a 2.5% general adjustment.

Along with this news, I would like to use this opportunity to share my gratitude for our spectacular 88th Commencement and its surrounding celebrations. Everyone and everything, even the weather, cooperated to make the events deeply meaningful for the Class of 2023. Every department has worked hard, and I am very appreciative of your efforts. Thank you.

Even as we celebrated our graduates' accomplishments, we were heavy hearted. I acknowledge what a challenging and grief-stricken term we have just endured. The need for additional mental health support for students, staff, and faculty is clear. Efforts to strengthen our existing systems as well as improve morale and belonging on campus will require collaboration and coordinated partnership across the entire college. With this in mind and building on the strategic planning conversations within the whole person workgroup, I have initiated conversations with senior leaders to meet throughout the summer to determine what mental health and wellness initiatives we can accelerate for the upcoming academic year and how we will involve the community through our shared governance structures.

We recognize that our work continues in earnest but also acknowledge the importance of taking time away to rest and recharge. It is in this spirit that I would like to announce **a one-time additional floating personal day** for all benefits-eligible staff available for you to take at any time July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024. I encourage you to use this additional time for rest or to enjoy with loved ones away from work. The extra day will appear as Floating Personal Day (designated as FLOAT) in the time off section of ADP.

With enduring gratitude for each of you and all the ways you contribute to the success of this extraordinary institution, I wish you a spectacular summer. I look forward to starting the 2023-2024 academic year with renewed excitement for our individual roles in supporting students in becoming who they want to be and for our collective mission to make the world more beautiful, sustainable, democratic, and just.

Warmly,



Laura Walker
President