

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Dear Bennington Community,

Greetings! On Friday March 4th, the Board of Trustees held its March board meeting at trustee Alan Kornberg's Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP in Manhattan.

Shared Governance

Board Chair Nick Stephens accepted the [final report](#) from the [Shared Governance Task Force](#) on behalf of the board. Each of the constituent groups—faculty, staff and students—are discussing next steps and we hope to implement recommendations in time for the fall term. Shared governance will continue to evolve at Bennington and members of each constituent group will participate in periodic evaluations.

Faculty Appointments

The Board formally approved all of the below Spring 2022 visiting faculty appointments submitted by President Walker:

- **CAPA:** *Mark Dunlea*
- **Society, Culture, and Thought:** *Christine McAuliffe*
- **Literature:** *Anais Duplan '14, Rachel Lyon, Mary Ruefle '74*
- **Visual Arts:** *Sergio Bessa, Tracey Cockrell, Farhad Mirza, Jordan Reznick, Farzana Wahidy*

President's Report

President Walker briefed the board on recent College news, including Ukraine, our inaugural Chief of Staff & Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Shelton Walker, updates on COVID, our FY22 institutional goals, recent Alums in the news, Art For Access, and an admissions report with Vice President of Enrollment Tony Cabasco.

Dean of the College Brian Michael Murphy

Dean of the College Brian Michael Murphy gave a lively talk about his recent Fulbright work in Italy and his upcoming book, *We the Dead: Preserving Data at the End of the World*.

Strategic Planning

A working lunch focused on strategic planning, starting with an overview of our process and output that we want to be joyful, authentic, and purpose-driven. The group explored “the fundamental why” of Bennington’s existence, followed by a discussion of key building blocks, including: Energizing the core, storytelling, innovation and partnerships, and educating the whole person.

Committee Meetings

Brief committee reports, with their overviews of recent meeting agendas and how they will support the strategic plan, followed in the following order: Campus Planning; Campaign Design; Education and Community Life; Investment; Nomination & Governance; Audit & Risk; Budget & Finance. The primary areas of focus were campus improvements, fundraising, our goal to further diversify our Board, review of the current year budget and fundraising.

Mental Health & Wellness Report

The board was joined again by our partner, Dr. Michael Cohen who provided a report on the Mental Health & Wellness Initiative, on the heels of the successful work and convening held by the College. Presenting alongside Dr. Cohen was Kat Daley, Director of Psychological Services, who shared her great insights of this important work on campus now and beyond. Work is currently underway to secure the necessary support to operationalize and implement the identified recommendations.

Museum Fellows

At the conclusion of the meeting Provost Mauric Hall led a lively discussion with faculty member Liz White, River Valdez ’20 (Museum Fellows Term alum) and Xiao (Smile) Ma ’23 (current Museum Fellows student) on their experiences in the program and living in New York City while attending Bennington.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, we want to wish you a happy and safe spring. Our next Board meeting will be Friday, May 27, and we look forward to continuing to update you on our work.

Warmly,

Nicholas A. Stephens '77

Chair, Board of Trustees

Laura R. Walker

President