

BENNINGTON COLLEGE

Faculty Meeting

Monday August 29, 2016

9:30-11:00am

CAPA, Symposium Room

Meeting Agenda

Election: FPRC

Faculty Announcements

Report of the Provost and Dean of the College

Isabel Roche

- Mellon Grant: Fall Work Plan
- Global View of Fall Term / Office Initiatives, Updates, and Reminders
- Provost/Dean's Office Communications: Faculty Notes

Faculty Mentoring

Karen Gover & Andrew McIntyre, co-mentors

Report of the Faculty Performance Review Committee

Sue Rees, chair

Report of the President

Mariko Silver

- F16 Entering Class
- Summer Campus Projects

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Meeting Minutes

Faculty present: Barbara Alfano, Ben Anastas, David Anderegg, Crina Archer, Lopamudra Banerjee, Barry Bartlett, Ella Ben Hagai, Josh Blackwell, David Bond, Kitty Brazelton, Nick Brooke, Rebecca Brooks, John Bullock, Akiko Busch, Maya Cantu, Noah Coburn, Terry Creach, Hugh Crowl, Annabel Davis-Goff, Elena Demyanenko, Thorsten Dennerline, Michael Dumanis, Harlan Fichtenholtz, Michael Giannitti, Karen Gover, Camille Guthrie, Sarah Harris, John Hultgren, Susie Ibarra, Yoko Inoue, Jon Isherwood, Kirk Jackson, Dina Janis, Ginger Lin, Vanessa Lyon, Richard MacPike, Amie McClellan, Andrew McIntyre, Erika Mijlin, Katie Montovan, Laura Nussbaum-Barbarena, Carol Pal, Karthik Pandian, Ann Pibal, Jonathan Pitcher, Mirka Prazak, Kate Purdie, Sue Rees, Dana Reitz, Jenny Rohn, Noelle Rouxel-Cubberly, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Chip Schoonmaker, Tim Schroeder, Eileen Scully, Susan Sgorbati, Allen Shawn, Betsy Sherman, Stuart Shugg, Brando Skyhorse, Rotimi Suberu, Kimberly Van Orman, Justin Vasselli, Paul Voice, Elizabeth White, Bruce Williamson, Michael Wimberly, Kerry Woods, Ikuko Yoshida

Others present: Paige Bartels, Natalie Basil, Zeke Bernstein, Jamie Babic, Hung Bui, Kate Child, Duncan Dobbeltmann, Kendra Ericson, Laurie Kobik, Xenia Markowitt, Janet Marsden, Holly McCormack, Meredith Meurs, Tessalyn Morrison, Brian Murphy, Noelle Murphy, David Rees, Matt Rizzo, Isabel Roche, Andy Schlatter, Mariko Silver, Oceana Wilson

Introduction

Mariko Silver, President

- Welcome to new and visiting faculty
- New faculty introductions
- New website: thank you to those who helped out and call for feedback.

Faculty Announcements

Election: FPRC

Meredith Meurs, Assistant to the Provost and Dean of the College

- John Bullock elected for 1-year replacement alternate position to replace Brooke Allen. He will serve for Terry Creach for 16-17.

Report of the Provost and Dean of the College

Isabel Roche

- Thanks to those who participated in faculty panels in orientation
- Terry Creach will be temporarily returning to the Dean's Office as Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs during Duncan's leave.
- Mellon Grant: Fall Work Plan
 - The goals, outcomes, and Fall plan for the actions around the Mellon Grant were reviewed with the faculty. The goal of the \$800k grant from the Mellon Foundation is to strengthen the core features of a Bennington education by experimenting, assessing outcomes, and responding to internal and external changes in higher education. The Mellon Fellows will be working 4 hours/wk this term on the outlined objectives, and will be engaging dialectically with the Dean's office and faculty as the project moves

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forward. The presentation also outlined the academic calendar for the Fall Term and explained that the Retention Lab will continue with this incoming class.

- Zeke Bernstein introduced Jaime Babic, registrar and director of enrollment services. Jaime is helping to shift academic forms to an online format. The letter grade request, tutorial, and concern forms are all fillable online now and faculty should point advisees to the website to access. FWT docs should be available soon.
- Noelle Murphy talked about changes to the peer writing tutor program, stating that advisors/faculty will receive an email at the end of each session reporting what was worked on and the progress achieved.
- Holly McCormack talked about Life After Bennington (LAB) weekend as well as FWT deadlines.
 - Shifted the schedule to the fall after Alumni/Family weekend since more alumni are in the area
 - Sessions are now open to all students, please encourage your advisees to come.
 - Will reach out to faculty about sessions to connect them to discipline area events/interests
 - Students have been emailed with a form to start thinking about what they will want to do for FWT, advisors will receive access to a spreadsheet that tracks student responses later this week.
 - Reminder to meet with advisees about FWT before Long Weekend to approve their proposals.
- Xenia Markowitt introduced Natalie Basil, assistant dean of students. Natalie's focus will be on residential life and conduct. Other Student Life announcements included:
 - A new center for student engagement located in upcaf
 - Michael Thomson will be staying on as a Kilpatrick Fellow to strengthen our community engagement program not only for student groups, but for classes as well. He is available to work with faculty to think about how they can engage their classwork and students with the local community.
 - Working with Lydia Brassard and Kate Child for first generation programming and on hidden costs of college affecting retention
 - Review of conduct system in process (for example, when is it appropriate for faculty to be informed about conduct?)
 - Starting a search for a new position, director for health promotion. This role will be a first responder for sexual violence and all health issues.
- Provost/Dean's Office Communications: Faculty Notes
 - Started a monthly e-newsletter to share information a week or so prior to each faculty meeting so less time is spent on reporting/announcements in meetings.

Faculty Mentoring

Karen Gover & Andrew McIntyre, co-mentors

- Currently collecting experiences from previous mentors/mentees, please respond as soon as possible to the survey sent out as it will help form this year's programming.

Report of the Academic Policies Committee

Nick Brooke, chair

- First meeting is next week, so agenda has not been set. Open call for agenda items.

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Report of the Faculty Performance Review Committee

Sue Rees, chair

- Reminder to submit colleagues letters for faculty under review by Oct 1.

Report of the President

Mariko Silver

- Matt Rizzo, Vice President of Institutional Advancement, was introduced.
 - Announcement of Woodbury Foundation Grant for Jon Isherwood and Barry Bartlett for their achievement as teachers. Newer faculty will be able to share their work as artists in residence.
- Hung Bui shared the makeup of the entering class showing a range of data to explain how this year's incoming class is better in quality, diversity, and is more financially sustainable. He alluded to the high competition presented by peer schools as a reason for why the class is not as large as projected, but also highlighted the focus on reducing the acceptance rate to be under 60%--an important benchmark for the College. Hung will be traveling to China with Mariko and Jon Isherwood to co-host a major higher education conference in China along with Stanford, Berkeley, John's Hopkins, and Bard. This, along with Bennington Works, are efforts to increase Bennington's presence in the college market.
- Andy Schlatter shared an update on campus projects performed during the summer. Several houses were substantially renovated. The replacement of underground steam and sewer pipes have both saved the college money and have fulfilled environmental goals. The Ninja Path project has been started and will connect the college to the town of Bennington when it is finished in 2018.
- Preview of community event being held later today, entitled: Taking Space, Making Space: Enacting Community. The importance of faculty participation was noted.