

# Transition Plans

## **Bennington College - Interim President Isabel Roche**

To: Faculty and staff  
From: Isabel Roche, Interim President

Date: June 5, 2020

When I took up the role of interim president last July, it was on the heels of a very difficult spring at Bennington, and I knew that it would be a challenging year ahead. In addition to the challenges we anticipated -- as higher education changes before our eyes -- a whole new set came our way with the global pandemic in March. Throughout it all, I have been inspired by the generosity, care, and determination of Bennington staff and faculty to do the very best for our students. Working alongside all of you and leading the College in new ways has made me appreciate this place all the more.

Following the announcement this week of Laura Walker's appointment to the presidency, I write to let you know of my transitional plan and the plan for the Provost and Dean's Office. I will continue serving as Interim President until July 31, working with President-elect Walker in July to facilitate the smoothest possible start for her on August 1. I will then resume my faculty appointment at the College, following a sabbatical for the 2020-21 academic year.

John Bullock, Acting Provost and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs, will continue in his role for the 2020-21 academic year. Oceana Wilson, Acting Dean of the College and Dean of the Library, will also continue in her role for the coming academic year. John and Oceana have done a tremendous job this year, under the most trying of circumstances, and I extend my deep gratitude to them for their partnership, leadership, and dedication to our community.

I believe deeply in this College, and in what it aspires to be and do. And I very much look forward to its future.

Warmly,  
*Isabel Roche*