

**Faculty Meeting Agenda**

**Thursday, April 25, 2019**

12:30 - 1:45 pm

CAPA, Symposium

**Report of the President**

Mariko Silver

**Report of the College Steering Committee**

Vanessa Lyon, co-chair

**Report of the Academic Policies Committee**

Noah Coburn, chair

**Report of the Associate Dean for Advising**

Katie Montovan

**Report of the Provost and Dean of the College**

Isabel Roche

## **Faculty Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, April 25, 2019**

CAPA, Symposium Room

12:30pm-1:45pm

**Faculty present:** Barbara Alfano, David Anderegg, Lopa Banerjee, Josh Blackwell, Tom Bogdan, Kitty Brazelton, Carly Briggs, Nick Brooke, John Bullock, Andrew Cencini, Noah Coburn, Terry Creach, Hugh Crowl, Annabel Davis-Goff, Elena Demyanenko, Thorsten Dennerline, Janet Foley, Michael Giannitti, Manuel Gonzales, Karen Gover, Camille Guthrie, Amber Hancock, Sarah Harris, Anna Maria Hong, John Hultgren, Yoko Inoue, Jon Isherwood, Kirk Jackson, Jonathan Kline, Sherry Kramer, Thomas Leddy-Cecere, Ginger Lin, Thom Loubet, Mary Lum, Vanessa Lyon, Richard MacPike, Amie McClellan, Emily Mitchell-Eaton, Katie Montovan, Brian Michael Murphy, Carol Pal, Aysha Peltz, Ann Pibal, Senem Pirlar, Jonathan Pitcher, Mirka Prazak, Kate Purdie, Jean Randich, Robert Ransick, Sue Rees, Jenny Rohn, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Tim Schroeder, Eileen Scully, Susan Sgorbati, Stephen Shapiro, Allen Shawn, Don Sherefkin, Betsy Sherman, Rotimi Suberu, Anne Thompson, Debbie Warnock, Ikuko Yoshida

**Others present:** Zeke Bernstein, Kate Child, Kat Daley, Laurie Kobik, Meredith Meurs, Mandy Pappas, David Rees, Isabel Roche, Mariko Silver, April Stein, Oceana Wilson

## **Faculty Announcements**

### **Report of the President**

Mariko Silver reported:

- Updated that cost of living increases are a priority across the College and are being looked at with next year's budget.
- Recapped the meeting last week regarding the death of one of our students -
  - A mental health fact sheet is being worked on and will include direction and guidance for helping students and answering questions regarding access to health/psychological services appointments, wait times and cost, etc. This will be a working document and the first draft will be released next week. Please let Communications know if you have any questions, if it's not clear and if you have suggestions for the document. Laurie Kobik and Natalie Basil spoke about how students are re engaging and starting to get back into their regular cycles but stated that grief is a long journey. Please be mindful of this and in the next couple of weeks if your students are still struggling with deadlines, coming to class and re engaging in class, please let Natalie or Laurie know and they will reach out to the student. The amount of time needed is based on the class and the student. Ultimately, the student needs to successfully meet the requirements of the course, please use your judgment.
- Presidential Transition Process -
  - Mariko stated that she wanted to be clear that she was nominated for the new position and did not go looking for a new job.
  - Press coverage has been very positive and focuses on Mariko being selected to lead a national and international organization and that Bennington is in a strong financial position compared to area colleges that are closing.
  - There will be a call for nominations for search committee members. If faculty are interested or would like to nominate someone for the committee please email [president@bennington.edu](mailto:president@bennington.edu). You are welcome to nominate yourself. The board would like this to move as quickly as possible.

- In the next two weeks, a plan for the changes in the Dean's office to support the transition of Isabel taking on the interim President role will be announced. Isabel stated that it is important to not lose momentum with the recent work that has been done on the various committees.

### **Report of the College Steering Committee**

Vanessa Lyon, Co-chair, reported:

- NECHE is the committee's primary focus. Please take time to read through the 7 standards and reconcile them with your own personal views. A CSC member will be visiting your discipline groups to discuss. Cost of living statement is at the top of the list of CSC's priorities and is moving forward. Also, the committee is working on the grievance policy and advising structures.

### **Report of the Academic Policies Committee**

Noah Coburn, Chair, reported that APC is working on the following:

- Reviewing the open position proposals in biology, photography, dance, psychology and literature.
- Capex budget approval.
- The Assessment sub-committee is reviewing and updating FWT employer evaluations and independent study forms to align them more with course evaluations, with a single paragraph assessment.
- The group is working with Katie on advising expectations.
- The new tutorial form is on-line. Please help students understand this new tutorial process which proposes tutorials much earlier (a term before) than in the past. APC envisions the tutorials as growing out of the Plan process.
- Thank you for placing the "critical writing" tags on 31 courses. This will be evaluated and based on how it works, additional tags may be used in the future. Please provide Noah feedback to aid the evaluation of how it is working.

### **Report of the Associate Dean for Advising**

Katie Montovan, [see presentation here](#)

- It was suggested that search committees be clear with new faculty candidates about the workload as a faculty member at Bennington, including advising expectations, so new hires aren't surprised when they start. Isabel stated that creating these structures for advising makes an enormous difference in clarity. A "workload conversation/summer retreat" is in the works to discuss faculty workload in relation to advising demands. We are looking for participants to join this group and will solicit participation soon.

### **Report of the Provost and Dean of the College**

Isabel Roche reported:

Due to lack of time, discussion of CAPA happenings will be pushed to the next Faculty Meeting on May 23. Susan Sgorbati added that if faculty have courses or guests for Fall 2019, that would connect to the new course initiatives in CAPA: Food, Plastic, PFOA, Peacebuilding, Forced Migration, please let her know.