

**Faculty Meeting Agenda**  
**Thursday, February 18, 2019**  
CAPA, Symposium Room  
10:00am-12:00pm

**Faculty Announcements**

**Report of the President**

Mariko Silver

**Report of the Academic Policies Committee**

Noah Coburn, chair

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

Isabel Roche

- Advising Hub
- Senior Plan Essay
- External Grants
- Academic Accommodations

## **Faculty Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 18, 2019**

CAPA, Symposium Room

10:00am-12:00pm

**Faculty present:** Barbara Alfano, David Anderegg, Barry Bartlett, Ella Ben Hagai, Josh Blackwell, Tom Bogdan, Kitty Brazelton, Carly Briggs, Nick Brooke, John Bullock, Andrew Cencini, Hilary Clark, Noah Coburn, Terry Creach, Hugh Crawl, Annabel Davis-Goff, Thorsten Dennerline, Michael Dumanis, Janet Foley, Michael Giannitti, Manuel Gonzales, Karen Gover, Camille Guthrie, Amber Hancock, Sarah Harris, Anna Maria Hong, John Hultgren, Susie Ibarra, Yoko Inoue, Jon Isherwood, Kirk Jackson, Jonathan Kline, Anna Kroll, Thomas Leddy-Cecere, Russell Lilie, Ginger Lin, Thom Loubet, Mary Lum, Vanessa Lyon, Richard MacPike, Amie McClellan, Alexander Mihailovic, Farhad Mirza, 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, Natalie Scenters-Zapico, Charles Schoonmaker, Tim Schroeder, Eileen Scully, Burcu Seyben, Susan Sgorbati, Stephen Shapiro, Allen Shawn, Don Sherefkin, Betsy Sherman, Rotimi Suberu, Anne Thompson, Justin Vasselli, Debbie Warnock, Michael Wimberly, Kerry Woods, Ikuko Yoshida

**Others present:** Zeke Bernstein, Tony Cabasco, Kate Child, Duncan Dobblermann, Katy Evans, Laurie Kobik, Amy Kuzmicki, Meredith Meurs, Brian Murphy, Noelle Murphy, Mandy Pappas, David Rees, Isabel Roche, Delia Saenz, Mariko Silver, Ellen Weiner

## **Faculty Announcements**

### **Report of the President - Mariko Silver**

A memorial and celebration in honor of Danny Michaelson's life will be held on Sunday, April 28, 2019, from 2-4pm in VAPA Martha Hill Dance Theater.

Delia Saenz spoke about the development of a "Faculty Climate" survey. This will cover a wide variety of topics and is an important exercise to help create a climate of organizational inclusiveness and effectiveness. Please share what works, concerns, or ideas for change. The survey will take approximately 35 minutes and all are encouraged to participate. Soon an email is being sent about four sessions on inclusion topics for students to attend. The dates will be shared with faculty, please encourage your students to attend. The Micro-Aggression staff training will continue this term.

Mariko discussed Hampshire College not taking a freshman class in Fall 2019 and them looking at merging with another institution. Bennington has been reaching out to Hampshire with a variety of support and assistance. Mariko shared that Hampshire has had 3-5 years of dropping application numbers and their cost structure/overhead are thought to be some causes. The Massachusetts Attorney General and Governor have recently proposed to require higher ed institutions have multiple years of cash on hand, which is also thought to be a driving force for Hampshire's decision. Green Mountain College is closing. Middlebury, Franklin &

Marshall and Oberlin are all implementing budget cuts. Additionally, admission numbers are down at Reed, Puget Sound, Scripps, Union and Lafayette. Our application numbers are in the expected range, and the third highest we've ever received. Our six year graduation rates are at 75%, an all time high and our Spring 2019 enrollment is projected to be at or near an all-time high. We have been working on and will continue to invest in branding, admissions and endowment. BenningtonWorks is an incredibly important yield moment. Admissions is working on reaching students earlier in their high school careers (sophomores, or earlier). We are focusing on things that move prospective students and what they want to study, and we know that meeting faculty makes a major difference. Our FWT is also a main distinguishing feature. Please be prepared to talk about how you are involved in FWT in case you are asked by prospective students/parents. If you have any ideas, please contact Tony Cabasco.

We are in our 10 year accreditation cycle for NECHE and are currently drafting a report that is due in August 2019. In September 2019 a visiting team will visit and examine our adherence to the NECHE standards. We will be working with faculty and staff to be sure that we are adhering to these standards through open sessions and faculty committee meetings. The NECHE standards are listed below:

**Standard 1: Mission and Purposes**

**Standard 2: Planning and Evaluation**

**Standard 3: Organization and Governance**

**Standard 4: The Academic Program**

**Standard 5: Students**

**Standard 6: Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship**

**Standard 7: Institutional Resources**

**Standard 8: Educational Effectiveness**

**Standard 9: Integrity, Transparency, and Public Disclosure**

#### **Report of the Academic Policies Committee - Noah Coburn, chair**

Noah expressed that APC has been working to determine what supports the committee can provide to enable faculty to do their work. He shared spring agenda items, which include: restructuring tutorials; continued review of First-Year Forum with focus on new advising blocks in course grid and potential for teaching credit for advising; study away support structures within discipline groups.

Sarah Harris shared a reminder about the shift in timing for the Senior Plan Essay to the start of the spring term. Advisors are meant to review and then bring in the Plan committee members (particularly those overseeing advanced work) as needed. Zeke Bernstein shared that a "senior survey" will be sent to graduating students to allow students to share reflections beyond the Plan, allowing for the Senior Plan Essay to focus more on the progress of their advanced work/Plan. Camille Guthrie has written a guide for students for this essay writing which will be distributed to faculty and students.

Debbie Warnock worked with the First-Year Experience Office to draft language for faculty to include in their syllabus around assisting students with financial difficulty. The thought is that this will support a conversation and even if students don't have a discussion with the faculty about their financial concerns, this will lead to them feeling more included and feelings of support being offered. Suggested language is being shared and will be sent soon. If any student needs an emergency loan, this is an option and they should talk with Noelle Murphy or Kate Child.

Noah arranged for a pedagogy panel as part of Tuesday Night Supper Club on March 5.

**Report of the Provost and Dean of the College - Isabel Roche**

Isabel noted that the Supplies and Materials Task Force, led by John Bullock, will begin meeting this term to take up issues of equity across courses. Faculty are encouraged to participate.

Katie Montovan shared recent enhancements made to the Advising Hub.

Isabel introduced Ellen Weiner, Manager of Grants and Partnerships who gave a brief overview of the SPIN grant database.

Katy Evans presented on Academic Accommodations. Katy shared some examples of attendance accommodations and opened it up to faculty to share their experience with these specific examples. Katy offered to attend discipline meetings to dig deeper into navigating attendance accommodations within specific areas/courses.