

**Faculty Meeting Agenda**

February 23, 2017

12:30-1:45pm

CAPA, Symposium Room

**Faculty Announcements**

**Elections:**      **FPRC**  
                         **CSC**

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

Isabel Roche

**Report of the College Steering Committee**

Paul Voice, chair

**Report of the Academic Policies Committee**

Nick Brooke, chair

**Report of the Faculty Performance Review Committee**

Sue Rees, chair

**Report of the President**

Mariko Silver

## **Faculty Meeting**

February 23, 2017

12:30-1:45pm

CAPA, Symposium Room

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Faculty present:** Barbara Alfano, Ben Anastas, David Anderegg, Crina Archer, Lopamudra Banerjee, Barry Bartlett, Ella Ben Hagai, Josh Blackwell, Tom Bogdan, Kitty Brazelton, Nick Brooke, Rebecca Brooks, John Bullock, Noah Coburn, Michael Cohen, Terry Creach, Elena Demyanenko, Thorsten Dennerline, Michael Dumanis, Marguerite Feitlowitz, Sarah Harris, John Hultgren, Jon Isherwood, Kirk Jackson, Jonathan Kline, Mary Lum, Vanessa Lyon, Richard MacPike, Amie McClellan, Erika Mijlin, Katie Montovan, Carol Pal, Karthik Pandian, Aysha Peltz, Ann Pibal, Kate Purdie, Jean Randich, Sue Rees, Dana Reitz, Jenny Rohn, Noelle Rouxel-Cubberly, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Delia Saenz, Chip Schoonmaker, Tim Schroeder, Eileen Scully, Susan Sgorbati, Allen Shawn, Donald Sherefkin, Brando Skyhorse, Rotimi Suberu, Paul Voice, Kerry Woods, Ikuko Yoshida, Yanan Yu

**Others present:** Zeke Bernstein, Jamie Babic, Kate Child, Laurie Kobik, Xenia Markowitt, Holly McCormack, Meredith Meurs, Tessalyn Morrison, Noelle Murphy, Isabel Roche, Mariko Silver

## **Introduction**

Mariko Silver, President

- The College is not loosening policies that protect transgender students, regardless of national politics.
- The College was able to help student return despite the immigration ban with the help of an anonymous donation from a member of the Board of Trustees, plus the work of local government and community members.. The College will be looking ahead to legislation around DACA/immigration restrictions.
- There will be a memorial for Hadil Marzouq in the student center on March 4th.

## **Faculty Announcements**

### **Elections**

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

#### **FPRC**

- Noelle Rouxel-Cubberly was elected for a 3-year position to replace Stephen Shapiro
- John Bullock was elected for a 3-year position to replace Paul Voice
- Michael Dumanis was elected for a first alternate 3-year position to replace Brooke Allen

#### **CSC**

- Andrew McIntyre was elected for a 3-year position to replace Terry Creach

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

Isabel Roche

- Welcome back from sabbatical and welcome to new visiting faculty
- Faculty searches:
  - announcement of Ursula Wolz as the new computer science hire
  - encouragement of participation during the candidate visits for the search for the director and curator of Usdan Gallery

- A position for writing will be moving to the search phase in the coming weeks.
- Sven Birkerts, the director of the Bennington Writing Seminars, will be stepping down after the residency this June. He will continue on as faculty after a year-long sabbatical. A search will be launched in the coming weeks to fill the position.
- Streamlining faculty communications
  - Addresses the volume of emails sent to faculty, the avenues for communication will be streamlined to Faculty Notes, the Academic Minute, Bennington Bulletin, College Week, and the website Events Calendar.
  - Zeke Bernstein gave an overview of the Spring advising map
- Susan Sgorbati reported on the College's participation in the Consortium on Forced Migration, Displacement and Education.
- Follow up to Monday's return day sessions: The discussion leaders from Monday were able to meet, and decided on workshops to be scheduled throughout the term. Further communications will be sent to faculty via Faculty Notes with invitations to these events and a collective reading list.

Zeke and Jaime Babic presented a continuation from Monday on names, pronouns and gender identity (see presentation above). They reported that the College is committed to recognizing the preferred gender identity of students and to be consistent in their academic file. There is a name/ pronoun update form that has been shared with faculty, but it is not meant to be a substitute for conversations between faculty and students. Faculty should consult the form results multiple times per term. Students' transcripts can be updated at any point in their time at Bennington or beyond.

- Comments: Form should be in alphabetical order by last name. Students should also be aware that the form does not substitute a conversation. There could be a sentence in the google sheet explaining that there may be mistakes regarding they/them pronouns used grammatically. Students should also be aware that the form exists. There were concerns raised about grammar in outgoing transcripts, for the benefit of faculty and students. A suggestion was made to include pronoun preference as optional in the beginning of a class and to make using they/them a classroom practice for those who request it.

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

Paul Voice, chair

- Next Wednesday is the first faculty-only meeting of the term. The agenda will be determined soon, but will likely include health care and salary reports, among other topics.

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

Nick Brooke, chair

- APC will be reporting during the faculty-only meeting.

### **Report of the Faculty Performance Review Committee**

Sue Rees, chair

- Communications will be sent to faculty regarding their involvement in review processes.

### **Report of the President**

Mariko Silver

- Commons Update and Planning :

Andy Schlatter reviewed the campus projects being worked on this spring. These projects include the preparation needed for Commons renovation, the expansion of the Student Center, and the relocation of certain offices.

During the Commons renovation, dining will shift to the Student Center, with Grab and Go moving to the Bookstore, laundry facilities will be only available within the student houses, and health/psych services will be housed in what was Brooder. Over Long Weekend, the Student Center will be closed to prepare for the shift in dining capacity. There will be extended dining hours in Commons that weekend, as well as a small cafe open in Down Commons. The Brooder renovation will be completed in May/June.

Institutional Advancement will be moving off campus to 210 South Street and there will be a conference space available if faculty wish to teach a class in town.

The Paran Creek apartments will be occupied in Fall 2017.