

**Faculty Meeting Agenda**

May 25, 2017

12:30-1:45pm

CAPA, Symposium Room

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

Isabel Roche

- CAPA Initiative F17: Religious Literacy
- Retention Lab
- Town Gown survey

**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 Mellon Fellows****Report of the President**

Mariko Silver

- Admissions update
- Campus Planning update

## **Faculty Meeting Agenda**

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### **Meeting Minutes**

**Faculty present:** Barbara Alfano, Benjamin Anastas, David Anderegg, Lopamudra Banerjee, Ella Ben Hagai, Josh Blackwell, Tom Bogdan, Lydia Brassard, Nick Brooke, John Bullock, Noah Coburn, Michael Cohen, Terry Creach, Elena Demyanenko, Thorsten Dennerline, Michael Dumanis, Marguerite Feitlowitz, Camille Guthrie, Sarah Harris, Jon Isherwood, Kirk Jackson, Dina Janis, Mary Lum, Vanessa Lyon, Richard MacPike, Amie McClellan, Andrew McIntyre, Erika Mijlin, Katie Montovan, Carol Pall, Jonathan Pitcher, Kate Purdie, Jean Randich, Sue Rees, Dana Reitz, Jenny Rohn, Noelle Rouxel-Cubberly, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Tim Schroeder, Eileen Scully, Susan Sgorbati, Allen Shawn, Donald Sherefkin, Betsy Sherman, Bruce Williamson, Kerry Woods, Ikuko Yoshida

**Others present:** Zeke Bernstein, Hung Bui, Liam Daley, Kendra Ericson, Laurie Kobik, Meredith Meurs, Tessalyn Morrison, Noelle Murphy, Isabel Roche, Andy Schlater, Mariko Silver, Michael Thomson

### **Town Gown Survey**

- Michael Thomson introduced a survey from the Kilpatrick Fellows administered to the faculty on priorities for community partnerships to better understand our goals for the College's relationships with the town.

### **Faculty Announcements**

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

Isabel Roche

- Isabel suggested that faculty read the Faculty Notes to review the new hires for Fall 2017. There will be two new faculty administrative positions in the Dean's office. Terry Creach will be staying on until December, and Laurie Kobik will take on the role of Dean of Studies.
- Faculty should respond to Nicole Arrington with their plans for attendance at the Commencement dinner.
- Michael Cohen will be leading a religious literacy workshop in CAPA in the afternoons this fall for students, faculty, and staff modeled on Yale's Divinity School's online course. There will also be a review of religious archival documents from the College.
- Faculty are encouraged to be accommodating to students whom celebrate Ramadan, which falls at end of term. If faculty hear any concerns from students, they should forward those concerns to Nicole Arrington in Communications.
- Zeke gave a presentation on the Retention Lab. He outlined the importance of retention and the objectives and progress of the Retention Lab. He gave examples of changes that have been enacted to support students, mostly around advising. He reviewed how many students will be graduating, reasons for leaving, and the demographics of those who leave. He also showed how retention rates have increased because of an increased attention to students at risk.

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

Jon Isherwood

- CSC has been working on the faculty handbook and are continuing discussions on hours and benefits. They will be meeting with the Board of Trustees. There will be a faculty only meeting next week, send Paul requests for agenda items.

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

Nick Brooke, chair

- APC is working on the needs assessment, looking at supplementary hires and increasing faculty hires. A series of recommendations will be made soon.
- The first term essay will be moved to the second term.
- Plans to release the revamped faculty handbook in the fall.

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

Sue Rees, chair

- FPRC is finishing their process and thanks the faculty for their input. The next deadline for feedback will be September 15, details will be sent out soon.

### **Report of the Mellon Fellows**

- There will be a First Year Forum pilot launched in Fall 2017 with five faculty, five upperclassmen, and around fifteen new students. The students will be preparing for the Plan and transitioning to College. Feedback from faculty would be appreciated. Future initiatives will also be materializing over the summer regarding co-curricular work and advanced work.

### **Report of the President**

Mariko Silver

- Hung Bui gave a presentation on the Bennington Class of 2021. Travel to prospective schools/fairs was increased by up to 38%. There was an increase in applications to 1458. Admissions rates dropped to 56.25%. Yield from Bennington works was 53% (59% including those who had deposited). There will be 231 students from 31 states and 25 countries. 71% will be women. Liam Daley discussed how their rankings are calculated academically and holistically and went over the numbers on the new class makeup.
- Mass MOCA will be opening a new show this weekend, faculty involvement includes Mary Lum and Nick Brooke.
- Andy Schlatter gave an update on what will be happening this summer.
  - Commons will remain active until the end of June. The renovation will start in July.
  - The new student health center will be opening in mid to late June. The Student Center will be opening for dining in July.
  - Paran Creek Apartments will be opening this fall and a new path will be constructed in the summer.
  - Institutional Advancement is now in Downtown Bennington.
  - The mailroom will be relocating to the EAC and the mailboxes will be in the Barn.