

Faculty Meeting Agenda
Thursday, March 28, 2019

12:30 - 1:45 pm
CAPA, Symposium

Faculty Climate Survey: Preview of Results

Delia Saenz, Vice President for Institutional Inclusion, Equity and Leadership

President's Announcements

Mariko Silver

Faculty Committee Elections:

FPRC

CSC

APC

Report of the College Steering Committee

Vanessa Lyon, co-chair

Report of the Academic Policies Committee

Noah Coburn, Chair

Plan Day Announcements

Laurie Kobik, Dean of Studies

Provost and Dean's Announcements

Isabel Roche

Faculty Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 28, 2019

CAPA, Symposium Room

12:30pm-1:45pm

Faculty present: Barbara Alfano, Lopa Banerjee, Barry Bartlett, Ella Ben Hagai, Josh Blackwell, Kitty Brazelton, Nick Brooke, John Bullock, Andrew Cencini, Hilary Clark, Noah Coburn, Terry Creach, Hugh Crawl, Annabel Davis-Goff, Elena Demyanenko, Thorsten Dennerline, Janet Foley, Michael Giannitti, Manuel Gonzales, Amber Hancock, Sarah Harris, John Hultgren, Yoko Inoue, Jon Isherwood, Kirk Jackson, Jonathan Kline, Sherry Kramer, Thomas Leddy-Cecere, Ginger Lin, Mary Lum, Vanessa Lyon, Richard MacPike, Amie McClellan, Emily Mitchell-Eaton, Katie Montovan, Carol Pal, Senem Pirlar, Mirka Prazak, Kate Purdie, Jean Randich, Robert Ransick, Sue Rees, Jenny Rohn, Kerry Ryer-Parke, Charles Schoonmaker, Tim Schroeder, Eileen Scully, Burcu Seyben, Susan Sgorbati, Stephen Shapiro, Allen Shawn, Don Sherefkin, Betsy Sherman, Anne Thompson, Debbie Warnock, Kerry Woods, Ikuko Yoshida

Others present: Tony Cabasco, Laurie Kobik, Meredith Meurs, Mandy Pappas, Matt Rizzo, Isabel Roche, Delia Saenz, Mariko Silver

Faculty Climate Survey: Preview of Results

Delia Saenz's presentation

Report of the President - Mariko Silver

- Tony Cabasco reported from Admissions:
It has been a solid season for admissions with 1300 applications and 770 acceptances from 41 states and 66 countries. This is the same range as the previous 5 years and revenues and discount rates are the same. Admitted Students day is April 14 and we expect 150 students to attend. This event is the College's single biggest yield tool and is essential. Students attending the event are figuring out if Bennington is home, if you are their teachers, and their first interaction with you is a key factor in their decision making. Your presence, engagement, and willingness to talk with them is critical. The faculty are reminded to email Admissions if you are going to be absent from a class as sometimes visitors have requested to visit your class or are expecting to meet you while they are here.
- Matt Rizzo reported from Institutional Advancement:
Bennington recently went public with a capital campaign titled "The World Needs More Bennington". So far, the campaign has raised \$78 million of the \$150 million goal. The funds raised are to be used to build endowment and are for current student, faculty and campus resources. There are five videos currently being used for the campaign. If you know someone you think should be highlighted in a video or if you have an interest and opportunity to help with donor calls, please let Matt know.

Faculty Committee Elections:

FPRC - 3 year position - Sue Rees elected

FPRC - 3 year position - John Hultgren elected

FPRC - 3 year 2nd alternate position - Jenny Rohn elected

CSC - 3 year position - Lopa Banerjee elected

APC - 1 year chair position - Debbie Warnock elected

Report of the College Steering Committee

Vanessa Lyon, Co-Chair reported:

- CSC is addressing faculty concerns related to salary, grievance procedures and advising. CSC is interested in bringing faculty concerns to senior administration. The Faculty-only meeting is a crucial tool for discussion, please attend and share your thoughts.
- Michael Dumanis is working on faculty feedback for the 9 areas of the NECHE study, your help is appreciated. This is the way to have your voices as faculty represented in the study. Each discipline group will be visited to hear faculty responses and compile data, feedback is encouraged. A rubric is being used to approach the NECHE standard challenges and successes.
- Faculty has submitted a memo to administration to CSC regarding a cost of living increase. This has been forwarded to Senior Staff, CSC is awaiting a response. Isabel reported that this is on Senior Staff's agenda and needs to be looked at more broadly, related to the budget and costs for next year. It is also being considered in connection to all, including staff, not just faculty.

Report of the Academic Policies Committee

Noah Coburn, Chair reported:

- Faculty input from across the College is needed for the NECHE report. APC is looking at structures and external committees. John Bullock is authoring the standards regarding the academic program and teaching, learning, and scholarship. Zeke Bernstein is authoring the section on educational effectiveness and Natalie Basil is authoring the section on students.
- Noah reviewed two new initiatives below:

Crediting and Assessing Independent Learning at Bennington - Tutorial Request Form

The new Tutorial Proposal will put the onus on the student describing what educational need they are seeking for their Plan and why they can't fulfill it within the curriculum. The timeframe for tutorials is being moved up and students should approach the faculty member the semester before they are hoping to take the tutorial. Tutorials are meant to supplement, not replace the curriculum and should be originated in a Plan meeting. Currently, 60 tutorials are not appearing in the curriculum and the goal is to make them more visible so students can see all that is offered at the College. Conversation is continuing regarding teaching load in relation to tutorials and recognizing this faculty work.

Writing Tag Proposal - "Critical Writing"

APC is proposing a critical writing tag into the curriculum meant to signal to students where they can improve their writing and if it will be assessed in the class. This will be most useful in classes that are not heavy writing subjects. This will also serve as a tool for Camille Guthrie to know what faculty to reach out to for initiatives, writing tutors, etc. This term, if you have a course that should be tagged, email your CPC representative and ask them to inform CPC and APC. Writing is being used as a model to see if this should extend to other subjects that could be tagged.

- Senior Essay Assessment - this was recently submitted for the first time, if you have any questions and feedback, please ask Sarah Harris. This new format looks at "where are they headed, how are they doing, what needs to be done?". It questions the wider learning. How is FWT tying into the student's advanced work? This will be a helpful summary tool for new advisors.

Plan Day Announcements

Laurie Kobik, Dean of Studies reported:

- On April 4, there will be a special edition of Faculty Notes dedicated to Plan information. Plan essays will be available on the Advising Hub this term (before the next Plan Day) and paper

packets will no longer be distributed. All information related to the Plan meeting will be obtained through the Advising Hub. Jade will send the Plan Day schedule via email with a link to the hub.

Provost and Dean's Announcements

Isabel Roche reported:

- The College will be partnering with Google to provide online courses in Computer Science next year. This is Google's second round of piloting this program.
- Middlebury College Language Schools will be housed on Bennington's campus starting summer 2020. This partnership is great news and will provide 80% scholarships for our students.
- We have been awarded a \$1M Mellon Grant to support "food insecurity in Bennington County", beginning fall 2019. This will be focused on socially engaged/humanity projects and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the funds will go toward supporting the Town of Bennington community. The project will be led by Susan Sgorbati and supported by Yoko Inoue, Ben Hall and a new visiting faculty that will be hired. If you are interested in connecting your class to food study, please contact Susan.