

**Provost's Advisory Council  
Summary of October 4, 2017 Meeting  
8:30-10 am, Lynch Center, Fulton 515**

Laura O'Dwyer (Chair)	Kent Greenfield	Joseph Du Pont
Christopher Conostas	Sharon Beckman	John Rakestraw
Anthony Annunziato	Mariela Paez	Jasmine Hamm
William Keane	Theresa O'Keefe	David Quigley
Patricia Riggin	Claudia Pouravelis	Billy Soo
Can Erbil	Sasha Tomic	Joseph Carroll
Judith Clair	Stanton Wortham	Thomas Chiles
William Fehder	Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.	Akua Sarr
Stephanie Berzin	Gautam Yadama	Nanci Tessier
Thomas Crea	Thomas Wall	Nicole Barone

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- 1. The summary of the May 4, 2017 meeting was approved.** It will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website; members are encouraged to share them with colleagues.
- 2. Boston College Athletics Program – Martin Jarmond, William V. Campbell Director of Athletics**

Martin Jarmond joined the group to provide updates regarding the Boston College Athletics program. First, he discussed the values and vision of the program, which include creating a culture rooted in winning through passion, alignment, and competitive excellence. In his first 100 days at BC, he has learned that BC Athletics staff are the hardest working staff of any Power 5 institution. For example, all staff work during Saturday football games. Further, he noted that BC student athletes are highly academically motivated and service minded.

Jarmond talked about efforts faculty can make to partner with and support the Athletics program including open communication with the LRSA team, understanding student athletes' time commitments, attending games, and providing student athletes with mentorship and encouragement.

One PAC member said that students have approached him indicating that they cannot take morning classes due to their athletic commitments. He asked whether the NCAA has a limit for the number of hours a student athlete can train per week. Jarmond responded that the NCAA does have a limit, but they are revisiting the issue and considering adjusting the number of hours student athletes can train per week.

Another PAC member asked Jarmond to walk the group through an average day for a student athlete. He shared an example of a student who sails. This student begins sailing practice at around 7:30 am, sails until around noon, goes to classes and tutorial, has dinner, goes to another tutorial and ends their day at around 9 pm. This schedule varies by sport.

A PAC member asked Jarmond to share his strategic vision for competitiveness. He talked about evaluating the leadership of the coaches and making the environment as attractive as possible to recruit new talent. He shared an example of how BC's basketball program shares facilities with the other programs. Another PAC member asked about the vision for developing, adding or removing sports programs. Jarmond responded that BC has great variety in its sports programs to attract students. However, the financial reality is that we have only three revenue generating sports: football, basketball, and hockey. Further, most of these games will soon be broadcast on the ACC Network, which creates a marketing opportunity for BC Athletics as more people nationally will be watching these games. He plans to share a strategic plan for BC Athletics this spring.

One PAC member asked about the conversation surrounding degree completion for student athletes. One PAC member noted that BC's Jesuit mission and values are unique and asked whether these were an advantage or disadvantage in attracting student athletes who are interested in playing for competitive athletics programs. Jarmond responded that the mission is an advantage and an attractive proposition when recruiting new talent. The mission is the first thing that drives this conversation – when students come to BC they are going to be cared for and it will be a holistic experience. He also stressed that the BC athletics program has to have other things in place to make their programs competitive and ensure that we are training student athletes to do the things they want to do.

### **3. Role of the PAC**

Laura O'Dwyer began a conversation about the role of the PAC given some recent questions among BC faculty around the PAC's role and responsibilities. She asked members to consider what the role of the PAC might be and how to craft a description that accurately reflects this role. David Quigley discussed how historically, the PAC has served to address emerging issues. Over time, the PAC has met to develop BC's first course evaluation, discuss ROTC on campus, and align with federal policy on the credit-hour definition. Addressing the needs of the moment seems to make sense. The group agreed that the PAC's relationship with the Provost drives the work that they do and the efficacy of the group. Having a PAC chair that is alert to the issues also makes the council productive. This will be a continuing conversation.

A PAC member recommended having the Provost visit each school and attend their faculty meetings to discuss the role of the PAC and how they can raise issues with their PAC representative. There is nothing in the current description that mentions how non-PAC members can bring up issues to the PAC and faculty might not know where to bring their concerns. Members noted that it is important for the PAC and other committees to inform more faculty of the work that is being done institution-wide. The group agreed that this is a good idea and will further develop this strategy moving forward.

### **4. CIHE/NEASC Update**

Father Leahy will visit with the NEASC commission in November and a final report from CIHE/NEASC will be sent to the university later this semester. BC will likely be required to submit an interim report in 5 years per usual.

## **5. Faculty Handbook Subcommittee**

The online faculty handbook has been updated over time to address new issues that have emerged. Some recent topics being contemplated involve paternity leaves and part-time faculty titles. Billy Soo noted that reviewing all of the information around potential faculty handbook updates will be time-consuming and proposed that a subcommittee be formed to meet with him in order to review and discuss potential revisions and additions. The goal would be to review information and materials in order to generate a reasonably short list of recommendations/ revisions that would need to be vetted by the Deans and the PAC. If these revisions seem appropriate and are approved, then we would update the faculty handbook online. David Quigley noted that this issue came up several years ago during a conversation on the PAC's involvement in revising the faculty handbook. David asked whether we should form a 2017-18 ad hoc committee to do this work or whether it should be done on a case-by-case basis.

One PAC member responded that low volunteer turnout was the reason this process didn't take place through a subcommittee in years past. Another PAC member asked who was responsible for approving these policies. Billy responded that the idea is to have a subcommittee narrow the choices down to a reasonable set for the Deans and PAC to select and review.

One PAC member asked about the time commitment for the subcommittee. Billy thinks meeting once per month might be sufficient, but that with multiple revisions coming down the pipeline, things might be busier at the beginning.

Another member asked whether BC had well-defined titles for part-time faculty and Billy responded that this is one of the issues we are looking into. One PAC member encouraged the council to reach out to those engaged in these issues both on campus and in the greater Boston community.

## **6. Provost's Report**

David Quigley asked the PAC to consider BC's responsibility in supporting students on campus and responding to recent national and international tragedies and natural disasters. Fundraisers and a Mass are being held to support students and the greater BC community who were affected by the hurricanes. Faculty are encouraged reach out and support students who have been impacted.

A PAC member said we need to look ahead and plan for a likely increase in financial need for students from impacted areas. Nanci Tessier responded that the Financial Aid office can work to assist these students, and that our commitment to meet full financial need persists throughout the student's undergraduate enrollment.

John Rakestraw said that the Center for Teaching Excellence is exploring ideas in terms of teaching junior faculty how to teach in the current climate.

A PAC member raised the question of what to do if emergency situations arise on campus. How do we train our faculty to be more knowledgeable and prepared in the event that this happens? David Quigley responded that there will be a presentation later in the semester to address emergency situation preparedness with the faculty.

Finally, David Quigley invited the PAC and faculty to presentations being held on November 3<sup>rd</sup> that will discuss the launch of the Institute for Integrated Science and Society.