

**Academic Vice President's Advisory Council  
Summary of February 17, 2005 Meeting**

Attending: Charles Ahern, Jessica Bollinger, Andrew Boynton, Richard Cobb-Stevens, Patricia DeLeeuw, John Fourkas, Pamela Grace, Evan Henrech, Demetrius Iatridis, Peter Ireland, Ray Madoff, John Neuhauser, Joseph O'Keefe, SJ, Joseph Quinn, Elizabeth Sparks, Sandra Waddock, Peter Weiler, Christopher Wilson, Jerome Yavarkovsky

Guests: Louise Lonabocker, Larry Ludlow

1. The minutes of the December 2, 2004 meeting were approved.
2. Pat DeLeeuw and Larry Ludlow introduced to the Council a proposal being made by a subcommittee of the University Council on Teaching to pilot an electronic course evaluation in the fall, 2005 semester. In the ensuing discussion some Council members spoke: in favor of a mandatory system; in favor of the publication of some of the course evaluation results; in support of additional questions; to suggest finer gradations in the answer scales. The general sentiment of the meeting was that an electronic evaluation was a good idea, and that the pilot should go forward as planned. Should there be problems with the proposed process, or if the response rate is unacceptably low, the evaluation process can be modified in future semesters.
3. Louise Lonabocker asked the Council to approve the elimination of the publication of undergraduate students' class rank. Since the compression of class rankings is related to the issue of grade inflation, at Boston College and elsewhere, a future Council meeting will focus on a recent A&S study of grade inflation. At the end of the discussion 12 Council members voted in favor of eliminating class ranks, three voted in favor of keeping it.
4. Jessica Bollinger reported to the Council on issues currently being considered by the Graduate Student Association: improving the administration and structure of joint degrees; a recommendation that there be research grants for graduate students; a survey to be sent to admitted but non-matriculating students; a University-wide graduate student orientation; graduate student housing.
5. Council members suggested the following agenda items for future meetings: course withdrawals and the longer add-drop period; an update on the Interim Faculty Senate; suggested indicators for the assessment of graduate program quality; the possibility of holding regular campus-wide fora for discussion of issues of campus-wide concern.