

Provost's Advisory Council
March 15, 2018 Meeting
8:30-10am, Lynch Center, Fulton 515

In attendance:

Laura O'Dwyer (Chair)	William Keane	Patricia Riggin
Sharon Beckman	Jonathan Laurence	Ronnie Sadka
Joseph Carroll	Richard Lennan	Akua Sarr
Judith Clair	Theresa O'Keefe	Billy Soo
Chris Constas	Mariela Paez	Sasha Tomic
William Fehder	Claudia Pouravelis	Thomas Wall
Kent Greenfield	David Quigley	Stanton Wortham
Jasmine Hamm	John Rakestraw	Gautam Yadama
Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.		

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- 1. The summary of the February 8, 2018 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. BC's Global Engagement Initiative: Hélène Bernot Ullerö, Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Hans de Wit, Director of the Center for International Higher Education**

Hans de Wit began by talking about what global and international engagement means in the context of the University's Jesuit, Catholic identity. Our graduates increasingly operate in a more global context. It is important to prepare students for a global perspective by strengthening support services to enable effective international research and studies for students and faculty.

Hélène Bernot Ullerö provided background on the Global Engagement Committee and the work that has been completed so far. The committee, co-chaired by Jennifer Erickson (Political Science Department and International Studies Program) and Alberto Godenzi (Special Advisor to the President for Global Engagement), includes representatives from each of the schools and across the BC community. Fr. Leahy tasked the committee with looking at BC's current international activities and identifying areas for potential growth and additional opportunities for global engagement for BC students and faculty. The committee began their work in October 2017 with the intention of proposing scenarios for a global engagement strategy that fits with the 10-year strategic plan that was released in the fall of 2017. The Committee expects to complete their work by the end of 2018.

The committee has already had three of their six planned meetings. They have been visiting units around the University to get a better understanding of what is already happening at BC. They have held town-hall meetings to gather feedback from the community while also informing the community about the work that is being done. Attendance has come mostly from students, but they are aiming to receive more faculty feedback as well. They are looking at peer institutions and global trends to see where BC could improve institutionally.

The feedback and research so far suggests the following:

- There is significant international/global activity on campus, but it is somewhat fragmented, with a lack of knowledge across the community about what is happening elsewhere; some peer schools have a database of faculty engaged in work in other countries, a model that we might want to pursue.
- The existing international and global activities lack an overarching strategic sense of direction.
- More than 50% of BC students study abroad, but many consider it an add-on to their education and not central to their curriculum. Others feel that their programs are already so busy they don't have time to study abroad and wish that it could be more integrated.
- International students seek ways to be more fully leveraged as a resource; similarly, Visiting Scholars believe they are an underdeveloped as a resource for international engagement.
- There are many untapped on-campus resources for international programming; for example the libraries, dining services, etc. The committee has established a website to help raise awareness of some of these resources.
- There is a tendency to focus on individual projects without looking for potential collaboration with other departments or schools. Engagement across campus could be broadened by increased understanding of what others are doing.

A Council member asked if BC has institutes in other countries. Helene replied that BC Ireland is an underutilized resource for the community that could be used for hosting conferences, receiving students, etc. She continued that it is not Fr. Leahy's intention to create branch campuses or formal institutes across the globe, but to engage in strategic partnerships and to leverage existing relationships. Hans pointed to Latin America as an example of an area that could add value. BC recently signed an agreement with the University of Guadalajara to develop a dual degree program and to encourage student and faculty collaboration. He discussed missed opportunities in the past due to a lack of a framework at BC to establish partnerships but noted that there has been progress on that front, which has allowed for more partnership agreements.

A Council member asked how the committee was focusing time and energy to prioritize areas with the greatest need and interest. Hans responded that a goal of the task force is to gain a clearer understanding of what the BC community finds important and how that fits into the larger global strategy and our Jesuit, Catholic mission, noting that we can't do everything, so there is a priority for exploring what is most effective within the University's limited resources.

A Council member added that global engagement needs to turn to non-traditional societies and asked what it means for BC to be globally engaged. How is the University thinking about opportunities for addressing complex problems in areas with quickly expanding Jesuit schools such as Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia?

Hans agreed that study abroad continues to be focused on "classical" areas – Europe and other English speaking countries – noting there is a recognized need to diversify and expand from those more traditional study abroad destinations.

Hans talked briefly about the inward-looking trend with regard to global engagement at the political level in the U.S. and elsewhere, and the resulting trickle down to academia. He pointed out the worrying state of academic freedom in some countries and the risks of partnering with institutions in those countries. Many institutions are responding by welcoming international collaboration. There is a push to internationalize at the institutional level by teaching about global competencies and engagement, expanding opportunities for degree programs with an international focus, and exploring additional ways to integrate study abroad into the existing curriculum.

3. Sexual Misconduct and Discriminatory Harassment Procedures: Patricia Lowe, Executive Director and University Title IX/ADA Coordinator

Patricia Lowe began with an overview of Title IX. Under Title IX, schools that receive federal funding are legally required to report and resolve any claim of sexual assault. This includes claims by faculty and staff, and not just students.

BC's approach is organized around multiple Title IX coordinators. In addition to Patricia, there is a University Harassment Counselor in Human Resources (Linda Riley), a Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Students (Melinda Stoops), and a Deputy Title IX Coordinator for Athletics (Jocelyn Fisher Gates). Complaints by a student against another student are handled by either Melinda or Jocelyn. If faculty or staff members are involved, the complaint is handled by Patricia or Linda. In cases where there is a student complaint against a faculty or staff member, the case is handled through a partnership with HR and the Student Affairs Office.

Any BC faculty or staff member who is aware of an assault has a responsibility to report it, as their knowledge of the incident places an obligation on the University. Even if a student asks for confidentiality in disclosing an assault, it is imperative that claims be reported. The longer it takes to initiate an investigation, the less opportunity there is for a thorough investigation as evidence is lost. Early, even tentative, reports, are critical and can assist in identifying past behaviors and patterns of behavior on campus.

Faculty and staff should remember that they do not have the responsibility to investigate the claim themselves, nor do they need to give advice. These conversations can be very difficult, but getting the complainant to the appropriate resources on campus to support them is important, keeping in mind that some may not want the assault reported or investigated. If the student is adamant that their name not be reported, the faculty or staff member should still get in touch with the appropriate office for advice on how to proceed and what resources can be provided.

A Council member asked what information is needed when reporting. What if something is overheard, but you don't know the people involved? Another member asked if the student's name specifically had to be reported.

A Council member asked about students interacting with individuals outside the BC community, for example at internships or interviews, and where that falls in terms of reporting. Another Council member asked if Title IX travels with the student to another country.

4. Update on Commuter Benefits for BC employees: Billy Soo, Vice Provost for Faculties

In response to a question that was raised by a Council member as to the commuter benefits that BC provides to employees, Billy compared BC's benefits with those provided by a number of Boston-area Universities.

John Savino in the Office of Transportation and Parking provided statistics on the BC community based on the annual survey that the Transportation Office administers. A large majority of BC faculty and professional staff does not use mass transit, noting it is too time consuming for people coming from the north or west as they have to go all the way into the city and come back out to BC. Additionally, BC provides parking rates that are significantly discounted compared to local schools, which makes driving a more desirable option.

MBTA pass discounts account for the largest discrepancy in benefits. BU and Tufts allow passes to be purchased using pre-tax dollars and provide a discounted pass. BC, like Northeastern and Brandeis, allows the use of pre-tax dollars but does not provide a discount. Last year, only 80 faculty and staff availed of the pre-tax dollar purchasing option, compared with 2000+ faculty and staff at Boston University who purchase through their benefits option.

A Council member mentioned that availing of the pre-tax dollars option is very cumbersome and not easy to use. He suggested potentially subsidizing a pass for some, which would also cut down on the number of cars on campus, noting that parking on campus can be difficult at certain times. Another Council member asked if there was a correlation between where faculty or staff live and their interest in using public transportation.

5. Provost's Report: David Quigley, Provost and Dean of Faculties

David provided an update on the Board of Trustees meeting which was held on campus in early March. It was overall a positive meeting, with the Board approving the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, along the lines of what John Burke presented to the Council in the February meeting. Billy Soo presented to the Board on faculty demographics – hiring and retention, diversity, future plans.

A few upcoming dates to keep in mind:

- Faculty Forum: April 9th at 4:00pm in Fulton 511
- Global Engagement Town Hall: April 24th at 3:00pm in Devlin 221
- Commencement May 21st

Finally, Undergraduate Admissions decisions will go out on Thursday, March 22nd. There will be more details available as the class begins to accept and take shape, but initial indications are that this will be a very strong class academically.