

**Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of September 18, 2014 Meeting**

Can Erbil (Chair)	Betty Blythe	Thomas Wall
Min Song	Mark Brodin	Katherine O'Dair
Anthony Annunziato	Judith Tracy	Siobhan Kelly
Cyril Opeil, S.J.	Laura O'Dwyer	Hagop Toghramadjian
Susan Michalczyk	James Bretzke, S.J.	Dean (Rocky) Rockwell
Devin Pendas	Theresa O'Keefe	David Quigley
James Gips	Daniel Chambers	Patricia DeLeeuw
Samuel Graves	Rev. James Burns	J. Joseph Burns
Danny Willis	Vincent Rougeau	Joseph Carroll
Linnie Green Wright	Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.	Jessica Pesce

1. Welcome Back and Introductions
2. The summary of the April 24, 2014 meeting was approved. The summary will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website; members are encouraged to share the summary with colleagues.
3. John Rakestraw, inaugural Executive Director of BC's new Center for Teaching Excellence, joined the Council to introduce himself and speak about his vision of the CTE. Pat DeLeeuw explained that the CTE is located on the 2nd floor of O'Neill, and that she is grateful to ITS and Tom Wall for the space. John was previously the Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Pedagogical Practice at Georgetown's Center for New Designs in Learning and Scholarship.
 - John spoke about his academic background, which is grounded in the liberal arts tradition. His career has focused on questions about how people learn in different settings, especially with technology. He believes it is crucial to find ways to encourage faculty to be critically reflective about their teaching practice and to go public with such reflections.
 - In his previous work, John has found that cohort-based workshops have been more enticing to faculty than one-time workshops. He would like to create a Center that encourages all faculty to think critically about teaching and to grow together as a community of teachers. It should also be a space where people can work on new ideas for their teaching without risk. He's planning to develop a cohort program, continue technology workshops, and provide one-on-one consultations.
 - John asked for suggestions on what others would like to see at the CTE. Some members asked about the role of graduate students in the Center; John said the Apprenticeship in College Teaching program will now be housed in the CTE, as will the Writing Fellows Program.
 - John also responded to questions about technology, teaching beyond the classroom, and the benefits of a residential education.

- One member suggested the establishment of faculty teaching awards, where the award winner could then lead teaching workshops.
 - Another member asked that part-time faculty be considered in programming, especially as the number of non-tenure-track and part-time faculty grows.
 - David Quigley announced that there will be a CTE open house in mid-October.
 - A student member asked about student access to printers. Tom Wall noted that this is an area he has been working on with IT, since printing needs have increased. More printers have been added on Level 1 and on the opposite side of the 2nd floor.
4. Can Erbil opened a forum on the work of the PAC this year. He and David Quigley also mentioned that the future location and time for the meetings should be discussed. A list of the topics that the PAC has reviewed over the last five years was distributed.
- How might we organize the PAC differently to encourage work between meetings?
 - David Quigley noted that there are two issues he sees as important strategic priorities for the university: the ongoing Core Renewal process and the future of the sciences at BC.
 - There are three other issues he would like input on: graduate education, technology and online education, and internationalization.
 - Other members of the PAC brought up issues they would like to see discussed by this group. These included:
 - The role of faculty in higher education. How can we encourage all faculty to have more say in the life of the university?
 - The division of labor in the university. How do we structure expectations and assessment for faculty, since they are not always evenly divided among teaching, research, and service? We need an assessment structure that is fair to people who strike different balances among these three areas over their careers.
 - Online education. One member suggested that we should initiate this discussion at the graduate level, as graduate students might be working or living further from campus and therefore more eager for online programs. How can BC be a leader in creating robust, specialized graduate programs online?
 - Student experience outside the classroom.
 - Undergraduate housing. Students are segregated by year, but research shows that mixed-age housing helps student formation and growth.
 - The role of a university education. Is it our duty to prepare students for jobs? At the next meeting, we will be joined by the director of the career center, and we should discuss this then.
 - Rising tuition. Does this limit the socioeconomic diversity of our student body?
 - It might be helpful for both parties if we asked the President to meet with the PAC on occasion.
5. Provost's Report
- David Quigley suggested that we could ask the director of Residential Life to come speak to the PAC about issues raised here regarding undergraduate housing.

- The Office of Student Services' enrollment highlight fact sheet was distributed. It shows that the undergraduate population is 54% female, and this year's freshman class is nearly 57% female. The freshman class is 7% international. Graduate enrollment has declined in several masters programs, and this will be an area of focus for the university this year.
- Economics is still the top major, followed by Finance, Biology, and Communication.
- There is a search underway for a Vice Provost of Enrollment Management.
- The Executive Vice President is stepping down December 31, and a search for the next EVP is underway.
- Advancement update: FY 2014 was the best year in BC's history for fundraising. We hope to conclude the Light the World Campaign next academic year.
- The student body includes 13-15% Pell grant recipients, up from 2008.
- BC held steady at #31 in the USNWR rankings this year. New ranking systems are now using data from payscale.com, which relies only on self-reported data from a small number of BC alumni.
- Reminder: next year is the first year of a new academic calendar, and BC will start classes on August 31. Please remind your students and colleagues.
 - This policy will be revisited after next year.