

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

**In attendance:**

Sharon Beckman (Chair)	Regine Jean-Charles	Tracy Regan
Joseph Carroll	William Keane	Ronnie Sadka
Mary Ellen Carter	Thomas Kohler	Akua Sarr
Thomas Chiles	Mason Marek	David Scanlon
Joseph Desciak	Madeline McCullough	Billy Soo
Kristin Flower	Gilda Morelli	Thomas Stegman
Yonder Gillihan	Karen Muncaster	Sasha Tomic
Stacy Grooters	David Quigley	Thomas Wall
Angela Harkins	Catherine Read	

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**1. Introduction of new members to the Council**

David Quigley introduced Sharon Beckman, new Chair of the Council. Introductions were made around the room.

- 2. The summary of the April 25, 2019 meeting was approved.** It will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website (<https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/academics/sites/provost/documents-and-reports/PAC.html>); members are encouraged to share them with colleagues.

**3. The Role of the PAC members – Billy Soo, Vice Provost for Faculties**

**a. Agenda Setting and Process**

**b. Discussion on how PAC members share Council information with their colleagues**

Billy Soo began with an overview of the agenda setting process. In advance of the academic year as well as each meeting, the Provost, the Vice Provost for Faculties, and the Chair meet to discuss potential topics and assign them to specific meeting dates during the year. Some meetings are reserved for annual topics, but the agendas are otherwise driven by the needs of the faculty, current topics of interest, or introductions of new officers of the University.

Faculty members with suggestions for topics to discuss should be in touch with their PAC representative.

Billy continued, discussing methods employed by various schools to share the information covered with faculty members. Various approaches include:

- The PAC representative(s) will report at a faculty meeting
- Information will be disseminated via school-wide listserv
- Information is shared with Department Chairs who further distribute the information

David suggested that PAC representatives discuss with their Deans the most efficient ways to distribute the information.

#### **4. Introduction to Mara Hermano, Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning**

Sharon introduced Maria (Mara) Hermano, Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning.

Mara explained that she is wrapping up her first month at BC and briefly discussed her background. Prior to coming to BC, she served as the Vice President of Integrated Planning at Rhode Island School of Design. In that role, she managed a similar portfolio to what she will be doing at BC. Before being named Vice President, she served in a number of roles, including Associate Vice President of Planning and Effectiveness, Chief of Staff to the President, and Executive Director for Strategic Planning and Academic Initiatives.

She continued, talking about the work that her team in Institutional Research and Planning (IR&P) does to support the University. The work falls into three large buckets:

- *Institutional Research* handles coordination of compliance reporting, preparation of the annual fact book, administration of internal and external surveys, and the collection and analysis of data for departments and schools.
- *Space Planning* manages design and coordination for office renovations, moves, and furniture needs, analyzes space utilization and allocation across the University, and works with departments across campus on major construction projects.
- *Strategic Services* works with departments to review their operations and services and to help plan for the future and best utilize resources.

Mara concluded, discussing her plans for the upcoming months to meet with the Deans, Vice Presidents, and Faculty to gain a better understanding of how they interact with IR&P and how her team can best support the strategic priorities of the University.

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

David provided updates on a number of issues:

**U.S. News & Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education Rankings:** Last year there was a dramatic shift in the U.S. News methodology, and BC dropped in the rankings to 38. For the 2020 rankings, BC improved from 38 to 37. There were two key changes in this year's methodology.

- U.S. News maps its university categories according to the Carnegie Classification system. In 2018, the Carnegie Corporation re-thought their classifications and added nearly 150 schools to their list of national universities. Universities that had

historically been regional are now classified as national. As a result, the number of schools in our ranking category increased.

- The high school counselor assessment was removed entirely from the methodology. There remains a peer assessment measure. The weight previously given to the counselor assessment was added to the assessments provided by presidents and provosts. BC improved in this measure from 3.6 to 3.7.

In the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education Rankings, BC moved up from 67 to 59 this year. This ranking has been around for about 10 years and is much more volatile than U.S. News.

**Admissions Updates:** Admissions leaders from across the country will be meeting in Nashville at the annual National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) meeting. Under pressure from the Department of Justice (DOJ), NACAC has proposed changes to its Code of Ethics and Professional Practice, removing a number of guidelines which the DOJ views as a violation of antitrust laws and detrimental to students. The proposed changes would eliminate the following guidelines:

- Prohibiting colleges and universities from offering incentives to students to entice them to apply under the binding early-decision category.
- Prohibiting colleges and universities from recruiting after the universal May 1 deposit deadline, with the exception of students admitted off of a wait list.
- Prohibiting colleges and universities from actively recruiting transfer students who have not already expressed interest in transferring.

NACAC has asked the membership to willingly strike the three guidelines in order to bring an end to the multi-year investigation by the DOJ. The NACAC Assembly will be voting on the changes at the annual meeting.

More locally, BC has moved to Early Decision 1 and Early Decision 2 programs. A memo will be circulated to the University community regarding the impact on admissions for the children of BC faculty and staff. Additionally, there will be information sessions hosted by HR and Admissions to help families think through the admissions process.

**300 Hammond Pond Parkway Land:** Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller has begun the process of acquiring 17 acres of Webster Woods through eminent domain. The land is part of the property that BC purchased in 2016 for \$20M, located at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway.

David concluded with a reminder that Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama and author of *Just Mercy*, will be on campus as part of the Lowell Humanities Series on Wednesday, October 9 at 7 p.m. in Conte Forum.

Billy Soo provided an update on the globalization initiative. During the Faculty Annual Reporting period last year, faculty were asked to input their global experiences in the profile section of the Faculty Annual Report. The goal was to use this information to develop a

global map that faculty and others, within and outside the University, could use to search for faculty with experience in a certain country. He demonstrated a prototype of the map (<https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/sites/training/aem-63-upgrade-testing/kul-core/global/global-activity/global-activity-full.html>) based on the input that has been received thus far. Faculty who have not done so will be asked again this year to fill out the global section of their Annual Report to continue to build out the database of activities for the map.

Tom Chiles provided an update on the Schiller construction. The building is on schedule, and the excavation of the site will continue through the winter. The key permits from the city of Newton were approved last week. In February, a large tower crane that will be used to frame the building will be built on the site. There is an abutters' group that meets weekly for updates on the major construction elements of the coming week.

David opened the meeting for questions, concerns, or proposed topics for future meetings.

A council member raised the parking situation on campus and the difficulties experienced by faculty members, noting that if a faculty member comes to campus in the middle of the day, there is very limited parking availability. Some faculty are opting to not come to campus at all because of the challenges. Another council member mentioned additional difficulties with the access gates in the garages.

Billy responded that he would bring the concerns to John Savino.

A council member suggested that it would be useful to review the use and value of student evaluations. There is a lot of teaching towards evaluations and anxiety among the faculty with the seeming movement towards relying on a single score on the evaluations without looking at the full teaching profile.

Billy responded that the University Council on Teaching has been reviewing course evaluations for the past year and a half. The group has been looking at new evaluation tools, and is crafting a list of recommendations to not only change the questions, but to emphasize that the final student evaluations are just one part of what should be a multi-part evaluation process.

A council member asked about classroom space availability, primarily for special events and impromptu use such as short notice use of a room for a talk by a visitor, and wondered what faculty should do when they have last minute space needs.

David noted that IR&P is helping with space planning and maximizing space utilization. One challenge, however, is that during key teaching times, space cannot be booked far in advance, as space is often held through add/drop to ensure appropriate classrooms are available.

Stacy Grooters, Interim Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), reminded the group that there were changes over the summer to the CTE. A new center was created, the Center for Digital Innovation in Learning (CDIL), which will work primarily on online and

hybrid course development and back end support of Canvas. The CTE remains committed to supporting faculty in their classroom pursuits throughout their careers. She noted that faculty with questions about either center or the distribution of support are welcome to reach out to her.