

**Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of October 24, 2013 meeting**

James Bretzke, S.J., Chair	Sam Graves	Devin Pendas
Lillie Albert	Katherine Gregory	Joe Quinn
Tony Annunziato	Don Hafner	Min Song
Mark Brodin	Siobhan Kelly	Anita Tien
Dan Chambers	Maureen Kenny	Judith Tracy
Can Erbil	Susan Michalczyk	Tom Wall
Pat DeLeeuw	Vickie Monta	Danny Willis
Bill Duffey	Katie O'Dair	Linnie Green Wright
Jim Gips	Laura O'Dwyer	

1. The summary for the September 26, 2013 meeting was approved.
2. Barb Jones, Vice President for Student Affairs, joined the Council to talk about the work of the Division of Student Affairs, and the Career Center. She reported that an effort is ongoing to focus on student conduct and civility, and described activities related to career services.
 - A consulting firm has been engaged to examine career services at Boston College. It was noted that the department has been without a Director for a year, and that career services is one of the fastest-changing areas in higher education.
 - A search for an Executive Director of Career Services is in progress. The new director will lead the department in becoming more visible and engaged with the schools, alumni, and parents, and able to think about the future of career services at Boston College. The goal is to enlarge the focus from senior-year recruiting to a comprehensive four-year program for undergraduates.
 - The consulting firm observed that the Career Center has 13 staff, for 9000 undergraduates, and that the number of staff does not permit sustained or meaningful individual interactions with students. It is hoped that the office will partner with staff in schools and academic departments to engage in complementary efforts that would help to create a "career community."
 - There is interest in working with academic departments to explore the appropriate emphasis that might be given to career issues. The possibility of one-credit courses in career topics was mentioned.
 - A member of the Council asked about plans for outreach to parents, to assure and educate them about career opportunities for their students. An e-newsletter is being developed with University Advancement, to educate parents further about the college experience.
 - Several questions were asked about how best to prepare students for conversations about their career paths. It was noted that students need more opportunities to discuss what contributions they might make to society. It was also observed that there is a need to increase their social self-confidence, so they can be prepared to socialize comfortably and independently in contacts with potential employers.
 - Finally, it was reported that Student Affairs is exploring ways to use technology to provide support to students in their career searches.

3. Pat DeLeeuw discussed preparations for the new Center for Teaching Excellence, which will open in September of 2014. Plans call for a visible, centrally-located place situated on the second floor of O'Neill Library. The Center will complement and supplement activities supporting teaching that are already in place in each of the schools.
 - A Director for the Center will be hired; it is hoped that this individual will bring key concepts about student formation to the Center's approach to supporting teaching activities. Some Faculty Fellows may be appointed as Master Teachers at the Center.
 - A question was asked about the public computer facility in the Library, as its space will be allocated to create the Center. It was explained that computers are now distributed throughout the Library, and that the Library has a laptop lending program.
 - It was noted that the new Center will be part of the teaching and research commons on the second floor of O'Neill; the third floor is a learning commons. Longer-term plans will see the creation of a digital production library.
 - A member of the Council asked how faculty who might benefit from teaching support are identified. Currently, faculty tend to be self-referred, or referred by deans and/or department chairs. At the moment there are no plans to require new faculty to participate in programs at the new Center, although participation will be encouraged.
 - It was proposed that programs that help faculty integrate their teaching and research would be particularly valuable additions to the activities of the Center, so that good research can enhance teaching.
 - It was noted that that the Center will focus on support and enhancement throughout the career cycle, not just remedial activities.
 - Additional suggestions for programming included: including part-time and non-tenure-track faculty in the Center's scope; and supporting faculty in graduate and undergraduate thesis direction.

4. Provost's Report
 - The Boston Redevelopment Authority has finally approved the 2150 Commonwealth Avenue residence hall project, where More Hall currently sits. The University's Institutional Master Plan calls for the creation of this residence hall and the conversion of 2000 Commonwealth Avenue to undergraduate housing, which will allow for the razing of Edmonds Hall and the construction of a recreation complex in that location. After that, the Flynn Recreation Complex will become the site of a new University center.
 - As has been reported in various media outlets, the newest version of the Common Application, released this year, has had many technical problems. Some Boston-area schools have pushed back the application deadline; BC decided not to do so.
 - There was a brief update about Semester Online. The advising period for Spring term course registration has begun. Students are encouraged to discuss their interest in a Semester Online course with their advisors.