

**Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of September 26, 2013 meeting**

James Bretzke, S.J., Chair	Katherine Gregory	David Quigley
Lillie Albert	Don Hafner	Joe Quinn
Tony Annunziato	Siobhan Kelly '15	Min Song
Betty Blythe	Maureen Kenny	Anita Tien
Mark Brodin	Narintohn Luangrath '14	Judith Tracy
Fr. James Burns	Susan Michalczyk	Tom Wall
Pat DeLeeuw	Katie O'Dair	Danny Willis
William Duffey III	Laura O'Dwyer	Linnie Green Wright
Can Erbil	Cy Opeil, S.J.	
Samuel Graves	Devin Pendas	

1. It was confirmed that the summary for the April meeting was approved over the summer.
2. Joe Herlihy, General Counsel, and Richard Jefferson, Office of Institutional Diversity, joined the Council for a discussion led by Katie O'Dair about Title IX and sexual assault on campus.

Title IX, a general statute forbidding discrimination on the basis of gender in any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance, has generally been associated with gender equality in athletic programs and equitable distribution of financial aid awards for male and female athletes. In recent years, it has been brought to bear in matters of sexual assault. In 2011, the Department of Education issued a "Dear Colleague" letter setting forth its views on campus sexual assault, namely, that allowing sexual assault (and sexual harassment) allegations to go uninvestigated and unaddressed violates Title IX.

Title IX requires designation of a campus reporting mechanism; there are also procedural requirements regarding the establishment of campus disciplinary bodies and campus investigations of allegations of sexual assault. Katie O'Dair is the Title IX coordinator for students at Boston College, and all incidents of sexual harassment and sexual assault by students against other students must be reported to her. (Linda Riley is the University's Harassment Counselor who deals with issues of harassment among faculty and staff)

- Compliance with Title IX requires a significant amount of coordination across campus offices in order to comply with Federal requirements.
- It was clarified that Title IX applies to all instances of sexual harassment and is not limited to rape, attempted rape, and sexual assault. Sexual assault is defined by Boston College as any nonconsensual sexual activity. Voyeurism, stalking, exposure, relationship violence, the display of pornographic images on computer monitors and in texts and emails, sexually harassing communication, and sexually aggressive language in the classroom may be considered harassment in that they create a hostile environment.
- It was noted that there are mandatory reporting requirements to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for assaults against minors; BC has a policy about minors.

- Under Title IX, students have the option whether to bring formal charges under the disciplinary system and/or to file a criminal complaint with law enforcement authorities.
- It was explained that in many instances, the victim or the person to whom the assault is disclosed may want the information about the assault to be confidential. Only information provided to Health Services, Counseling Services, or those in a pastoral role is confidential, although efforts are made to respect the privacy of students. For example, when an assault is reported to Katie O'Dair in her role as the Title IX coordinator, she refrains from contacting the victim directly if the report has been made by someone else; instead, she will work through the victim's support network to ensure that the needs of the student are being met. However, Boston College is obligated by Title IX to fully investigate allegations of sexual misconduct.
- Faculty and staff to whom a sexual assault is disclosed must report the incident to Katie O'Dair. While they do not need to include the name of the student victim, it is recommended that if they have a name, they share it.
- A member of the Council noted that parents are not always informed of sexual assaults involving their students. Boston College's primary relationship is to the student, not the parent, but students are strongly encouraged to inform their parents.
- Off-campus harassment and assaults are also covered by Title IX. Off-campus students receive outreach and education.
- The Title IX "Dear Colleague" letter states that the school must mitigate the discriminatory effects of harassment by providing "interim measures," including academic accommodations. It has been suggested that addressing requests for accommodations may follow the processes that have been established for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (e.g., requiring documentation, from a health professional), in determining appropriate accommodations.

3. For future meetings of the Council, the following topics have been proposed:

- The A&S White Paper about the Arts at Boston College
- Planning for the sciences
- Academic integrity and the ways in which the Library can play a supporting role
- The Core Renewal Process
- The Office of Student Disabilities
- The employment crisis for graduate students, and non-academic career paths
- Affordability and rising tuition
- Semester Online and Boston College's online course presence
- Part-time faculty

(Two additional suggestions were to invite Pat Keating, Executive Vice President, and Peter McKenzie, Financial Vice President, to discuss the university budget cycle; and to invite Barb Jones, Vice President for Student Affairs, for a discussion about the Student Affairs division and the Career Center. The University budget cycle will be discussed at the December 5, 2013 meeting; Barb Jones will join the Council on October 24, 2013.)

4. Provost's Report

- Robin Fleming, Department Chair and Professor of History, has been named a 2013 MacArthur Fellow. Amir Hoveyda, Department Chair and the Joseph T. and Patricia

Vanderslice Millennium Professor of Chemistry, will receive the 2014 American Chemical Society Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry.

- Plans are under way for the establishment of a new Center for Teaching Excellence. The Center will be located on the second floor of the Library and will bring together staff from Instructional Design and eTeaching Services and the Connors Family Learning Center in an single integrated space to support faculty and graduate student teaching. It is hoped that the Center will open in September 2014.
- Pat DeLeeuw announced that, after consultation with the Council of Deans and the Provost's Advisory Council, improved processes and procedures for full-time non-tenure-track faculty are now outlined in the Faculty Handbook. For the first time, a grievance process for non-tenure faculty has been created. A grievance committee has been constituted, composed of three non-tenure-track faculty and two tenured faculty members. The committee will begin with members appointed by the Provost; as the work of the group unfolds, there will be a discussion as to whether members should be appointed or elected.
- Boston College is now a member of the Semester Online consortium, and two online courses--one taught by Bob Bartlett of the Political Science department and another taught by Seth Jacobs of the History department--are being offered this semester. The fall term is regarded as a pilot, with about 110 students participating from seven consortium institutions.
- Joe Quinn provided an admissions update. The Boston College student body is now 54% female and 5% international, with students from every state, except North Dakota and South Dakota.
- The 2014 *US News & World Report* Best Colleges rankings were released earlier this month. Boston College has retained its ranking of #31 among national universities.