

Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of February 21, 2013 meeting

Bert Garza	Diana Pullin	Larry McLaughlin
Judith Gordon	Theresa O'Keefe	Timothy Crawford
Pat DeLeeuw	Stephen Pfohl	Tom Wall
Jeffrey Bloechl	Renee Jones	Vickie Monta
Lillie Albert	Anthony Annunziato	Anita Tien
Betty Blythe	Cy Opeil, S.J.	Maureen Kenny
Marilyn Matelski	James Bretzke, S.J.	David Wirth
Katie O'Dair	James Gips	Harrison Kent
Pat Byrne	Don Hafner	Siobhan Kelly

1. The summary for the meeting of November 29, 2012 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.
2. Mary Crane, Director of the Institute for the Liberal Arts, joined Council to describe the progress of the Core Curriculum Renewal process. A team of five individuals from Continuum--a design consultancy--and eight from Boston College (Andy Boynton, Tom Chiles, Dick Cobb-Stevens, Mary Crane, Gail Kineke, David Quigley, Akua Sarr, and Juliet Schor) have completed a Learning Summary and a Core Vision statement, and are in the process of developing possible alternative models for the Core. A series of "town meetings" is planned for April 2013, to discuss the proposed model(s). If a model is endorsed after those discussions, some pilot Core courses will be created for the 2013-14 academic year.
3. Based on conversations with the Council of Deans and an earlier discussion in the Provost's Advisory Council, amended language for the Faculty Handbook addressing non-tenure-track faculty has been developed. It was explained that the proposed changes reflect two objectives: (1) to address the fact that the term "adjunct" is used at Boston College for both full-time and part-time faculty, while other institutions use the term to describe only part-time faculty; and (2) to refine and develop guidelines for non-tenure track faculty regarding their titles, voting and other rights, promotion, and due process.
 - Some suggestions were made by the Law School faculty to clarify language and intent.
 - It was observed that language relating to the promotion of non-tenure-track faculty might be amended, to clarify appropriate criteria for promotion.
 - It was reported that the AAUP chapter at BC has expressed interest in developing a Faculty Handbook, i.e., one created by faculty. This would be welcomed by the Provost's Office.

Next steps:

1. Members are asked to forward suggestions for amendments to Pat DeLeeuw by March 14.

4. Provost's Report

- Pat DeLeeuw reported that plans for the Center for Teaching Excellence are moving forward, and a space program is being developed. It is expected that next year, the Center will begin to take shape on the second floor of O'Neill Library.
- Don Hafner reported that this year, the UCT and ATAB have decided to focus a portion of the grants regularly awarded, to support projects focused on innovations in academic technology that will enhance student-faculty interactions.
- It was also mentioned that BC will be replacing its current learning management system, Blackboard, with Canvas, which is viewed as a more user-friendly and analytical tool for faculty.
- Boston College is having early discussions about offering one or two MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses).
- Boston College is considering joining a consortium of 10-15 institutions to offer online undergraduate courses for credit. Meetings have been held with department chairs, deans and associate deans, and key offices that would be involved in the effort; documents are being reviewed by the Budget Office, University Counsel, Enrollment Management, ITS, Risk Management, and Student Services. It is hoped that a decision will be made as to BC's participation in the consortium by March 1.