

**Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of March 25, 2010 meeting**

Bert Garza	Anna Rhodes	Susan Gennaro
Pat Byrne	Brian Jacek	Pam Grace
Pat DeLeeuw	Amy Hutton	Judy Shindul-Rothschild
Lillie Albert	Kevin Bedell	Paul Lewis
Kathy Dunn	David Quigley	Dick Clifford, S.J.
Katie O'Dair	Gilda Morelli	Don Hafner
Marilyn Matelski	Jenny Baglivo	Ana Martinez Aleman
Tom Wall	Ellen Winner	Elyse Purcell

1. The summary for the meeting of February 18, 2010 was approved with one emendation: Denise Der should have been identified as the chair of the Quality of Student Life Committee. With this emendation, 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. Deans Andy Boynton and Joe O'Keefe SJ joined the meeting to participate in a discussion of the Council of Deans' proposal for modifications to our current sabbatical policy.

Council members offered their own reactions as well as those that had been communicated to them by their faculty colleagues:

- Concern was expressed that the end of sabbaticals as entitlements for tenured faculty might be construed as a reduction in faculty benefits. On the other hand, the intention here is that the majority of sabbatical applications will continue to be approved.
- The standards that will be applied by department chairs and deans in approving sabbaticals should be made explicit, although it is good that conversations between faculty members and the deans/department chairs about these expectations might ensue. Sabbaticals should be an integral part of career planning for faculty.
- There should be better enforcement of the current policies that faculty returning from sabbatical submit reports to the chair, dean, and provost, and that these reports should be an important part of the application for subsequent sabbaticals. Perhaps departments or schools might institute seminar series to be led by faculty returning from sabbatical.
- The requirement that faculty return to Boston College for one year post sabbatical allows students and faculty to benefit from faculty experience while on sabbatical.
- Schools might establish standing faculty committees to review applications for sabbaticals, 80% sabbaticals, and faculty fellowships. Deans should consider increasing the number of 80% sabbaticals and faculty fellowships, or creating a few full year sabbaticals at full pay.
- The current practice that faculty who delay sabbaticals be held harmless, i.e. that if a sabbatical is delayed, accumulated semesters of service in excess of 12 will be counted toward a subsequent sabbatical, should be made explicit in the policy.

Next steps:

1. Recommended clarifications on the steps in the approval process and in the accumulation of semesters of service for delayed sabbaticals will be made in the draft sabbatical policy.
 2. The revised draft will be brought back to the Council of Deans and the Provost's Advisory Council.
3. University Librarian Tom Wall updated the Council on the achievements and challenges of his first year. His goal in a recently-initiated strategic planning effort is to instill an entrepreneurial culture in the Boston College libraries to bring them to 21st century standards while always listening to the libraries' users. Among his challenges is the limitation of the libraries' space. Some of the achievements of the past year are:
- A refurbished Educational Resource Center in Champion Hall
 - Renovations to libraries in STM and GSSW
 - Increased hours in several libraries
 - A new lower-level entrance and facility for student art, technology-enabled study group areas, vending machines, and student reading area.
 - Progress on the digitization of some special collections.
 - A survey of undergraduate student, graduate student, and faculty satisfaction with library services (results distributed to the Council).
4. In the Provost's Report, Bert Garza distributed a revised Faculty Buy-out Policy and asked Council members for comments; reported on the Board of Trustees' recent approval of the FY11 University budget, which will also be a subject of his forthcoming Open Letter to the faculty, and their approval of the renovation of 10 Stone Ave. for the Institute for the Liberal Arts, the Gasson project, and continued planning of Stokes Commons; and shared with the Council his expectation that there will be over 40 new and continuing faculty searches next year.