

**Provost Advisory Council
Summary of April 24, 2008 meeting**

Attending:

Bert Garza	Mary Crane	Larry Ludlow
Pat DeLeeuw	Mary Cronin	Marilyn Cochran-Smith
Pat Byrne	Ferna Phillips	Gilda Morelli
Jerome Yavarkovsky	Patrick Maney	Barbara Hazard
Kevin Bedell	Adam Baker	Don Hafner
John Williamson	Paul Davidovits	Anita Tien
Kay Schlozman	Callista Roy	

Chris Conroy joined the meeting for the discussion about the University Library.

1. The summary of the March 27, 2008 meeting was approved and will be forwarded to the President's Office.
2. The Provost provided an update on the progress of the search for a new University Librarian. Isaacson Miller has been contracted to work with BC on the search. There have been two meetings to date. At the first meeting, the Committee reviewed the position description. At the second meeting, Isaacson Miller and the Associate University Librarians joined the Search Committee for a discussion of the position, the search process, and the work of the University Libraries.

The Committee is made up primarily of faculty; ITS and Library Staff have asked to be represented on the committee, and both have been given assurances that they will participate in the search process even though they are not formal members of the Committee. Some questions were raised about the composition of the committee and the decision not to include Library Staff formally on the Search Committee. While the Search Committee members have already discussed this issue, the matter will be put before them again.

The Council discussed Library acquisitions and a recent meeting of the Board of Chairs in the College of Arts and Sciences. General and anecdotal conversations have pointed to faculty concerns about collections decisions, diminished funding available for library purchases, and what is perceived to be an erosion of the research environment at Boston College.

- The Board of Chairs surfaced two concerns: a lack of faculty input in library decisions, and a concern about funding available to the Library. It was suggested that the University Librarian might join the Board of Chairs at one of their meetings, once yearly.
- It was observed that there are some mechanisms through which faculty can communicate their concerns about the Library, including:
 1. the bibliographers council
 2. the faculty liaisons to the Library

3. the Provost's Advisory Council
 4. direct communication with the Library leadership.
 - It was pointed out that the library has operated under a 3.89% yearly increase in the budget in recent years, while the average rate of budget increases for Consortium libraries this year was 6.23%. These limits have proven particularly challenging in the face of rising costs, inflation, and the proliferation of electronic materials. The library purchases both paper and electronic materials.
 - Budgeting practice has been to allocate a 3% increase across the University, to departments and programs. The Provost observed that costs have not risen uniformly, and that a new budgeting process should take this into account, looking at the allocation of resources and exploring the reallocation of resources.
 - It was noted that acquisitions can and should be written into proposals when new programs are being developed.
3. The Council discussed a potential move to a credit-based undergraduate graduate system for Boston College, identifying these questions as necessary details that should be addressed in preparation for such a transition:
 - International education and credit for coursework completed abroad.
 - The relationship between the curriculum review and the departmental review
 - Consideration of AP credits that students bring to BC
 - Summer credits, residency requirements, and financial implications all remain to be discussed.

It was observed that the experiences of other institutions that have made this transition would be particularly helpful.

It was agreed that the Associate Deans would be the most appropriate group to discuss and resolve transitional issues. After that, a proposal will be shared with the Council of Deans and the Provost Advisory Committee, and with the University Committee on Teaching.

4. The Provost reported that a revision of the University Statutes will begin this summer. Deans have been asked to provide names of liaisons within each school who will serve as part of an advisory group for the revision; the University Counsel is contracting with a law firm to assist in this work. Once a substantial draft is prepared, the Provost's Advisory Committee, the University Committee on Teaching, and other groups at the University will review and address.

It was observed that it would be useful to share this information with faculty early in the process, to explain why the statutes are being revised.

It was noted that a number of members of the Council are completing their terms of service with this meeting: Marilyn Cochran-Smith, Mary Cronin, Jerome Yavarkovsky, Kay Schlozman, Adam Baker, and Mary Crane.