

**Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of December 3, 2009 meeting**

Bert Garza
Pat Byrne
Pat DeLeeuw
Lillie Albert
Kathy Dunn
Elyse Purcell
Katie O'Dair
Gilda Morelli

David Quigley
Anna Rhodes
Brian Jacek
Hassan Tehranian
Amy Hutton
Francine Cardman
Tom Wall
Jenny Baglivo

Marilyn Matelski
Richard Clifford, S.J.
Callista Roy
Susan Gennaro
Anita Tien
Paul Lewis
Don Hafner

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1. The summary for the meeting of October 29, 2009 was approved and 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. The University Council on Teaching has developed a proposal for a teaching award, to be presented at Commencement.
 - It was noted that there is a ceremony the day before Commencement that honors the winner of the Phi Beta Kappa teaching award, and that the presentation of two awards coinciding with Commencement might result in confusion or the unintentional diminishment of the significance of a university-wide teaching award.
 - Some noted that the University teaching award reflects the input of all students, both undergraduate and graduate, while the Phi Beta Kappa teaching award is based on nominations from only Phi Beta Kappa students.
 - Several members expressed support for presentation at Commencement, with the caveat that the ceremony is already quite lengthy and that attention should be paid to the overall duration of the ceremony. It was observed that the visibility of Commencement and the audience of faculty, seniors, families, and alumni at Commencement provides an appropriate opportunity to confer an important university award.
 - Questions were raised about the audience for the teaching award, and whether first-year students, graduating seniors, family, and/or faculty constitute the most interested audience for the award.
 - It was suggested that the award might be announced at the University Convocation in the Fall, in addition to Commencement, with perhaps a talk by the recipient and a reception in the recipient's honor following.
 - It was noted that although the Provost's Office might recommend the presentation of a teaching award at Commencement, final decisions on what is included in Commencement rest with the University Commencement Committee.
 - A member suggested that if the proposal is adopted, it would be important to publicize the process widely to all students.
 - It was noted that the obligation on the part of the teaching-award winner to conduct a workshop on teaching would be viewed favorably.
 - It was suggested that the cash payment accompanying the award be as high as practicable. Some proposed that the award should be accompanied by a medal, and others suggested

- Some members observed that the obligations accompanying the award (leading a teaching workshop, perhaps giving a talk at Convocation), might be viewed as burdensome and therefore a cash payment might be welcomed by many.
 - It was also suggested that the recipient, upon announcement of the award, be seated on the Commencement stage.
 - It was observed that the UCT's proposed recognition of the recipient at halftime of a football game, might detract from the desired gravity of the award. Alternatives were suggested: a brief film along the lines of the videos that are produced for technology award recipients, for example.
 - Questions were raised about the presentation of a research award. It was observed that the proposal focuses on teaching, and that there is nothing preventing the development of a separate proposal for a research award. It was also noted that a university-wide teaching award would not preclude other teachings awards by each school.
3. The Provost announced that he will begin meetings with the Trustees this afternoon and tomorrow. At the Board meetings there will be a series of conversations about the economic realities and choices the University must make in the next several years. Decisions must be made about tuition increases, the Master Plan, and funding of the University Strategic Plan.

Members were asked to provide feedback and counsel to the Provost about decisions to be made.

- It was noted that some are advocating no tuition increases above CPI + 2%, or even above CPI. This would have a significant impact on academic programming and faculty salaries, and curtailing spending on programming and salaries will have an adverse impact on the University's ability to compete with other institutions of higher education.
- It was observed that when actual charges to students receiving financial aid are considered (i.e., tuition and fees, less financial aid), the net cost of a BC education to those students has remained stable for years, and when inflation is taken into consideration, the cost of a BC education to students receiving financial aid has declined in real terms over approximately the last four years.
- It was also observed that of the manner in which the official CPI figure is calculated is problematic and subject to debate by experts.
- Several spoke about the core purpose of the University and its Jesuit, Catholic mission. They noted the importance of BC's historic focus on offering need-blind opportunities to students who would otherwise remain under-served.