

**Provost's Advisory Council  
March 15, 2018 Meeting**

**Kent Greenfield**

Jasmine Hamm

Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.

William Keane  
Jonathan Laurence  
Richard Lennan  
Theresa O'Keefe  
Mariela Paez  
Claudia Pouravelis  
David Quigley  
John Rakestraw

Patricia Riggin  
Ronnie Sadka  
Akua Sarr  
Billy Soo  
Sasha Tomic  
Thomas Wall  
Stanton Wortham  
Gautam Yadama

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- 1. The summary of the February 8, 2018 meeting was approved.** It will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website; members are encouraged to share them with colleagues.
  - 2. BC's Global Engagement Initiative: H  l  ne Bernot Uller  , Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Hans de Wit, Director of the Center for International Higher Education**

Hans de Wit began by talking about bla global

perspective by

strengthening support services to enable effective international research and studies for students and faculty.

H  l  ne Bernot Uller   provided background on the Global Engagement Committee and the work that has been completed so far. The committee, co-chaired by Jennifer Erickson (Political Science Department and International Studies Program) and Alberto Godenzi (Special Advisor to the President for Global Engagement), includes representatives from each of the schools and across the BC community.

October 2017 with the intention of proposing scenarios for a global engagement strategy that fits with the 10-year strategic plan that was released in the fall of 2017. The Committee expects to complete their work by the end of 2018.

The committee has already had three of their six planned meetings. They have been visiting units around the University to get a better understanding of what is already happening at BC. They have held town-hall meetings to gather feedback from the community while also informing the community about the work that is being done. Attendance has come mostly from students, but they are aiming to receive more faculty feedback as well.

The feedback and research so far suggests the following:

There is significant international/global activity on campus, but it is somewhat fragmented, with a lack of knowledge across the community about what is happening elsewhere; some peer schools have a database of faculty engaged in work in other countries, a model that we might want to pursue.

The existing international and global activities lack an overw

Hans talked briefly about the inward-looking trend with regard to global engagement at the political level

A Council member asked about students interacting with individuals outside the BC community, for example at internships or interviews, and where that falls in terms of reporting. Another Council member asked if Title IX travels with the student to another country.

#### **4. Update on Commuter Benefits for BC employees: Billy Soo, Vice Provost for Faculties**

In response to a question that was raised by a Council member as to the commuter benefits that BC provides to employees, Billy compared BC's benefits with those provided by a number of Boston-area Universities.

John Savino in the Office of Transportation and Parking provided statistics on the BC community based on the annual survey that the Transportation Office administers. A large majority of BC faculty and professional staff does not use mass transit, noting it is too time consuming for people coming from the north or west as they have to go all the way into the city and come back out to BC. Additionally, BC provides parking rates that are significantly discounted compared to local schools, which makes driving a more desirable option.

MBTA pass discounts account for the largest discrepancy in benefits. BU and Tufts allow passes to be purchased using pre-tax dollars and provide a discounted pass. BC, like Northeastern and Brandeis, allows the use of pre-tax dollars but does not provide a discount. Last year, only 80 faculty and staff availed of the pre-tax dollar purchasing option, compared with 2000+ faculty and staff at Boston University who purchase through their benefits option.

A Council member mentioned that availing of the pre-tax dollars option is very cumbersome and not easy to use. He suggested potentially subsidizing a pass for some, which would also cut down on the number of cars on campus, noting that parking on campus can be difficult at certain times. Another Council member asked if there was a correlation between where faculty or staff live and their interest in using public transportation.

#### **5. Provost's Report: David Quigley, Provost and Dean of Faculties**

David provided an update on the Board of Trustees meeting which was held on campus in early March. It was overall a positive meeting, with the Board approving the Fiscal Year 2019 budget, along the lines of what John Burke presented to the Council in the February meeting. Billy Soo presented to the Board on faculty demographics – hiring and retention, diversity, future plans.

A few upcoming dates to keep in mind:

Faculty Forum: April 9<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in Fulton 511

Global Engagement Town Hall: April 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm in Devlin 221

Commencement May 21<sup>st</sup>

Finally, Undergraduate Admissions decisions will go out on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be more details available as the class begins to accept and take shape, but initial indications are that this will be a very strong class academically.