

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

Bert Garza
Judith Gordon
Pat DeLeeuw
Jeffrey Bloechl
Lillie Albert
Betty Blythe
Marilyn Matelski
Katie O'Dair
Pat Byrne

Diana Pullin
Theresa O'Keefe
Stephen Pfohl
Renee Jones
Anthony Annunziato
Cy Opeil, S.J.
James Bretzke, S.J.
James Gips
Don Hafner

Larry McLaughlin
Timothy Crawford
Tom Wall
Vickie Monta
Anita Tien
Maureen Kenny
David Wirth
Harrison Kent
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; 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, amended language, to clarify appropriate criteria for promotion.

It was reported that the AAUP chapter

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.