

MEMORANDUM

Date: February 13, 2015
To: Members of the Hampshire College Community
From: Gaye Hill, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Re: Report on the February 2015 Board meeting

Happy February! The Board of Trustees had a very productive meeting this past week (luckily, in between the snowstorms), and I wanted to share the highlights with you.

The trustees continue to be actively engaged with Hampshire's strategic plan, and are now focused on how we can best support the campus's implementation efforts. This theme was a major part of our meeting, and included the following sessions:

~ "Board Reflections on Diversity" – an interactive workshop organized and facilitated by trustees Luis Hernandez, Mary James, and Carolyn Greenspan. The goals of this session were to have the Board members take part in a dialogue about diversity that was both personal and grounded in our commitment to support one of the College's foremost priorities; to better educate ourselves about the scope of diversity work on campus; and to learn more about the projects that are part of the strategic plan moving forward. My thanks to Dean of Multicultural Education and Inclusion Kristen Luschen and Chief Diversity Officer Diana Fernandez for compiling data to help deepen our thinking.

~ "The Board and the Administration: Specific Roles and Responsibilities" – a discussion facilitated by Rich Keeling, of Keeling & Associates. Shared governance in higher education is always evolving, and it is important for the Board to stay attuned to the nuances of our role as trustees. Additionally, as Hampshire moves from strategic planning to strategic implementation, the Board's role shifts a bit. This was an opportunity for us to explore how we can most appropriately and effectively engage with and support the exciting work happening on campus.

~ "Marketing and Communications" – a discussion with incoming Chief Creative Officer David Gibson. David very kindly attended the Board meeting (despite the fact that he doesn't officially begin work until March 1st!) and shared his preliminary thinking about how to work with the campus community to best articulate and convey what makes Hampshire such a unique and important force in higher education today.

This, of course, is a core focus of the strategic implementation plan, especially in terms of recruiting prospective students and fundraising in support of our strategic priorities.

The Board also held some significant votes at this meeting:

~ To grant the baccalaureate degree to students graduating in February, as recommended by the faculty. I have to say that voting on degrees is always a particular pleasure for the trustees – it speaks to the heart of why we volunteer for Hampshire.

~ To approve the faculty hires, reappointments, and promotions, as recommended by Vice President for Academic Affairs Eva Rueschmann and CCFRAP. Congratulations to you all!

~ To name the information session room in the R.W. Kern Center in honor of Charles Taylor, former trustee and chair of the Board, who died last year. I never had the pleasure of meeting Charlie, but by all accounts he was an exceptional educator, scholar and friend of the College. Two of the endowed faculty chairs at Hampshire – in integrated sciences and humanities (held by Salman Hameed) and comparative religion (held by Alan Hodder) – were funded through his generosity.

~ To approve the siting for solar panels on the Hampshire campus as part of our ongoing efforts to achieve carbon neutrality.

Finally, the trustees enjoyed hosting a thank-you dinner for the faculty, staff, and students who are members of the Board's various committees, as well those who support the committees and otherwise facilitate the Board's work. A number of you weren't able to attend, but we hope you know how very much we appreciate all you do to make the Board function so smoothly.

Stay warm!