

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 18, 2015
To: Members of the Hampshire College community
From: Gaye Hill, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Re: September 2015 Board meeting

Last week's meeting of the Hampshire College Board of Trustees was wonderfully energizing and engaging. I am writing to share a few of the highlights with you:

~ We began by welcoming our new trustees, whom many of you had a chance to meet: Fraser Beede, Linda Earle 70F, Sascha Freudenheim 89F, Annie Rogers (faculty trustee), Carol Varney 90F (alumni trustee) and Juecheng Zhao 12F (student trustee). They are all already bringing forward their talents and perspectives in support of Hampshire College.

~ It was thrilling to get an update on the admissions initiative from Dean of Enrollment and Retention Meredith Twombly. This effort is already having an impact far beyond what anyone could have imagined in so short a time. Hampshire is clearly attracting high caliber students from significantly diverse backgrounds who are a strong fit for our mission, values, and pedagogy.

~ Chief Creative Officer David Gibson introduced the new website, the new admissions view book, and the new case for Hampshire. What can I say but: "Wow!" It is so exciting to see a distinct graphic identity and consistent language emerging across the College's various media, capturing the essence of Hampshire and disseminating it into the world.

~ Vice President for Student Affairs Byron McCrae spoke about "The State of the Student," briefing the trustees on wellness initiatives, changes to the physical landscape in support of the student experience, the results of student satisfaction surveys, the impact of the living-learning communities, and more.

~ We received an update on the progress of the fundraising campaign, and a number of trustees shared their personal stories about why they financially support the College. It was very moving to hear of the deep connection so many people have to Hampshire, and what inspires their generosity.

~ The trustees voted on the following motions, all of which passed unanimously:

1. To approve the faculty appointments, visiting appointments, and reappointments recommended by Vice President for Academic Affairs Eva Rueschmann.
2. To approve the College's fiscal year 2016 operating budget. I will add that the trustees were extremely pleased that Vice President for Finance and Administration Mary McEneaney prioritized building the budget around the needs of the academic program first and foremost; and we were also impressed that, in only three months, she was able to dig so deeply into the complexities of our financial landscape and present a balanced budget for the year.
3. To amend the Hampshire College Bylaws, Article IX, "Officers of the College," to add the position of Vice President of Student Affairs as one of the Officers of the College.
4. To name the renovated courtyard in Merrill House in memory of Howard Paul, Hampshire College's first physical plant director, and a founder and builder of the College.

~ Last but by no means least, the trustees participated in Board committee meetings with members of the Hampshire community, shared a meal with faculty to discuss their interests and concerns, and attended a presentation of student work through the Curatorial Practice Symposium.

My thanks to all of you who played a part in making our meeting so productive! I hope this recap is helpful. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me at trustees@hampshire.edu or Beth Ward, secretary of the College, at bward@hampshire.edu.