

MEMORANDUM

Date: Monday, June 2, 2014
To: Members of the Hampshire College Community
From: Gaye Hill, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Re: May 2014 Board meeting

A couple of weeks ago, the Board of Trustees concluded its final meeting of the academic year. As you will see from my notes below, it was a productive and important gathering, and I am delighted with how much we accomplished.

On a personal note, I will add that this was my first commencement as Board chair, and it was truly an honor to sign the diplomas and greet the graduates. Hampshire is such an amazing place!

Here are some highlights from the meeting:

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board voted unanimously and enthusiastically to endorse the strategic planning narrative presented by President Lash. The trustees were very impressed, both by the document and by the extensive community effort that went into creating it, and reiterated their appreciation for the Strategic Planning Steering Committee's hard work.

The trustees also spent several hours with Richard Keeling, of Keeling & Associates, to brainstorm ideas for projects that might come out of the strategic plan. These ideas will be shared with the Implementation Planning Group for consideration; once the IPG has completed its work, President Lash will brief the Board on the implementation plan.

PORTAL PROJECT

The Portal Project is moving apace and at this meeting the Board voted unanimously to authorize the next steps, namely, the budget and the development of construction plans. Already, orange flags mark the footprint of the building, and we will see the first physical manifestations soon, with the start of road improvements. We are all so excited to see the Portal becoming a reality!

DRAW FROM UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT

Another very important action taken by the Board was to approve President Lash's request for a special draw on the endowment. The trustees are fully supportive of this initiative, seeing it as a strategic investment in Hampshire's mission-driven admissions effort. These funds will be used to address key problems with the physical plant that have been identified in student and applicant questionnaires as being deterrents to students coming to or staying at Hampshire.

FACULTY POSITIONS

The Board approved searches for the following faculty positions: Assistant Professor of Asian Religions; Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature and Critical Theory; Assistant Professor of Directing and Dramaturgy; and Assistant Professor of Molecular Biology.

TRUSTEESHIP

We have been working very hard to increase both the size and the diversity of the Board. This is an ongoing effort, and we have made great strides this year. New trustees as of July 1 will include: Edward Dees 71F, Linda Earle 70F, Carolyn Greenspan, David Matheson, Carol Salzman 71F, and Howard Wein 93F. In addition, Karina Rosenstein 12F was elected as student trustee and Juecheng Zhao 12F as student trustee alternate, each for a one-year term.

Finally, the May Board meeting is always notable for its schedule of celebratory events, and this year was no exception. The trustees loved spending Thursday afternoon with so many of you, at the ribbon-cutting for the Roos-Rohde House – what a stellar effort by our students, and by the many staff and faculty members who supported them! On Friday afternoon we attended Division III presentations and were awed by the wonderful array of student work. And, of course, commencement was a highlight, reaffirming for all of the trustees why we care so much about Hampshire and volunteer on its behalf.

I hope this information 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. Have a wonderful summer!