

## MEMORANDUM

Date: November 20, 2014  
To: Members of the Hampshire College Community  
From: Gaye Hill, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Re: Report on the November 2014 Board meeting

Last week's meeting of the Hampshire College Board of Trustees was filled with remarkable moments. Here is a recap of the highlights:

~ There were two wonderful celebrations during the Board weekend: The groundbreaking for the R.W. Kern Center and the annual scholarship dinner. It is so exciting to think that a new building will be on campus by next year at this time – what a testament to Hampshire's creativity and commitment to sustainability. And our evening with some of the students who have received financial aid and scholarship support was inspiring and deeply moving. They are such a powerful affirmation of why the trustees volunteer for Hampshire!

~ Board members were enthusiastic about the discussion led by Strategic Planning Oversight Committee co-chairs Marlene Gerber Fried and Joanna Olin. Their review of the strategic priorities that have grown out of the strategic plan set the stage for a day-long workshop about trustees' role in fundraising. The Board voted to authorize a comprehensive campaign to help make those priorities a reality, and also voted for a special draw on the endowment to fund the Institutional Advancement Office's expanded efforts in support of the campaign. The campaign will be known as "Educating for Change and Changing Education."

~ Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty Eva Rueschmann gave a very informative presentation on the "state of the faculty." She provided us with data about changes in Hampshire's faculty composition over the past 10 years, including trends in the numbers of regular faculty, visiting faculty, adjuncts, and instructional staff; the proportion of full, associate, and assistant professors; the distribution of faculty across the schools; the demographic makeup of the faculty body; the number of faculty with terminal degrees; and so on. She also briefed the trustees on the efforts being made by the faculty workload taskforce, which are very impressive. We all feel so lucky to have Eva heading Hampshire's academic program.

~ The trustees voted in favor of two actions that are central to meeting the requirements of the “living building challenge” – and which, just as importantly, will provide significant added benefit to the campus. The first was to transfer the development rights for a parcel of Hampshire-owned acreage (behind Facilities and Grounds) to the Kestrel Land Trust. The property is part of the Northern slope of the Holyoke Range and, by virtue of this affirmative vote, Hampshire is contributing to a broader community effort to preserve this land for conservation and recreational purposes for generations to come. The second vote was to endorse a process for evaluating and determining a site for installing solar panel arrays on the Hampshire College campus, which will help offset and moderate our energy costs. I am very pleased about both of these actions.

~ The Board voted Trustee Ken Rosenthal as Hampshire’s new treasurer, effective December 1, and elected Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration Sandra Chessey as associate treasurer. A search is currently underway for a new vice President for finance and administration, but until that vacancy is filled, Ken has generously agreed to take on the treasurer’s responsibilities. For those of you who don’t know, Ken was Hampshire’s first treasurer, in the late 1960s, so it is a role he has filled before – although this time he is not being paid...!

~ President Jonathan Lash briefed the trustees about the hard work being done on campus to identify ways to reduce the budget for fiscal years 2015 and 2016. We are all so appreciative of everyone’s efforts to trim costs while minimizing adverse impact, and the trustees are committed to being part of this effort. I have tasked the Board’s Executive Committee with taking a close look at the Board budget, and we have begun making cuts to our expenses accordingly.

~ In terms of other actions, the trustees voted on a 2% increase in tuition, room, and board for fiscal year 2015; voted to change the designation of one of the College’s investment funds; and voted to approve this year’s faculty hires, sabbaticals, and leaves.

As we embark on preparations for Thanksgiving, I want to express how very grateful I am for what all of you do, every day, to make Hampshire such an amazing, resilient, and forward-looking educational environment. If people are the measure of an institution, then Hampshire is in extraordinarily good hands. Thank you, and happy holidays!