

MEMORANDUM

Date: Friday, September 19, 2014
To: Members of the Hampshire College Community
From: Gaye Hill, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Re: September 2014 Board meeting

Last week the Hampshire Board of Trustees was on campus for our first meeting of this academic year. Thank you to the many of you who took time to connect with us at different social events – we always find it invaluable to spend time with faculty, staff, and students and to hear what is on your minds.

This was a very exciting Board meeting for a number of reasons. I'd like to share a few of the highlights with you:

~ We welcomed a large and vibrant “incoming class” of new trustees: Edward Dees 71F, Carolyn Greenspan, Mary James 72F, David Matheson, Karina Rosenstein 12F (student trustee), Carol Salzman 71F, Howard Wein 93F, and Juecheng Zhao 12F (student trustee alternate). It is already apparent to me how beneficial the diversity of their perspectives and insights will be to the Board's work.

~ The Board started the meeting by voting to accept a lead gift from William Kern 75F and his mother Leona Kern toward construction of the new living building, and to name the building the R.W. Kern Center in memory of Bill's father. We also learned about several major gifts to the College made by our colleagues on the Board, including \$1 million for lab renovations and equipment for the School of Natural Science and additional significant pledges in support of R.W. Kern Center. Fundraising for the building now stands at \$6.8 million, so we are well within reach of achieving our \$8 million goal. Needless to say, these announcements were a lovely way to start things off!

~ Marlene Gerber Fried and Joanna Olin, co-chairs of the implementation planning group charged by President Lash with developing discrete projects as the next step for the strategic plan, described the IPG's process to the Board. We were very impressed by the IPG's exhaustive efforts to collect campus ideas and suggestions, evaluate them in light of the specific priorities set by the strategic plan, and distill them into concrete proposals with cost projections. Jonathan then presented his preliminary

recommendations to the Board, which he told us will go back to the community for further reaction before being finalized. Richard Keeling, the College's strategic planning consultant, shared his perception that few institutions have the commitment and the will to turn strategic planning ideas into actual prioritized actions – and to do so in the context of a broad-based, campus-wide, inclusive process is virtually unheard of. The session was deeply inspiring, and the Board is so proud of and grateful for this community's work.

~ Kristen Luschen, Dean of Multicultural Education and Inclusion and Associate Professor of Education Studies, and Diana Fernandez, Chief Diversity Officer, provided the Board with some background about campus diversity and inclusive excellence programming at Hampshire. We will revisit this topic later in the academic year, to hear about specific initiatives, opportunities, and policies.

~ We were very pleased that the trustee meeting dovetailed with two important campus events: the dedication of the Robert Seydel Reading Room, and the Mini-Conference on the Living Building Challenge. The former enabled us to honor a much beloved and influential professor who died in 2011, and to see the marvelous space created in his memory by architect Michael Meo 08F. The latter, organized by, among others, Jonathan Wright 70F, permitted us to spend some with Amanda Sturgeon, Executive Director of the International Living Future Institute, whose work is so essential to the living building challenge.

~ Last but not least, we were thrilled to see the transformations on campus. The new roadway and bus stop configuration, the wildflower meadow, the freshly painted buildings, the refurbished interiors – everything looks beautiful, and we know it is just the beginning. On behalf of the trustees, I extend my heartfelt thanks to Larry Archey, Carl Weber, the facilities and grounds staff, and the many others at the College who worked so hard over the summer. The campus looks well-loved and cared for.

I hope this recap of the Board meeting 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. You might also enjoy perusing the Board's website – <https://www.hampshire.edu/offices/board-of-trustees> – which includes information such as brief bio sketches for each of the trustees.

The Board will be back on campus in November, and we will look forward to seeing you then. In the meantime, please enjoy the beautiful New England autumn!