

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 10, 2016
To: Members of the Hampshire College community
From: Gaye Hill, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Re: May 2016 Board meeting

I am writing to give you an update on the most recent Board meeting, May 12-14, 2016. It was a meeting full of substance, with a lot to celebrate as well as some reasons for concern.

To begin with, welcome back to Jonathan! We have really missed him this semester, and are all so thrilled that he is finally on the mend.

This Board meeting was held in the R.W. Kern Center – what a beautiful and conducive space! Over the weekend my thoughts kept returning to the many ways this building manifests values that our community holds dear: broad-based campus engagement and collaboration in planning, design, and implementation; the centrality of the student educational experience in both intention and impact; the use of the experience as a vehicle for interdisciplinary teaching and learning; a radical step in our stewardship of the natural environment; expansion of creative and aesthetic boundaries in the built environment; and honoring individuals who have played a pivotal role in the life of the College.

We began the Board meeting with a celebration of our dear colleague and friend, Kenneth Rosenthal P04. Ken has ably served the college as a trustee for the past eight years, including as vice chair of the Board, chair of the Buildings, Grounds, and Environmental Sustainability Committee, member of the Presidential Search Committee at the time Jonathan Lash was hired, unpaid legal advisor, and much else. Moreover, as many of you know, Ken was one of Hampshire's founders. He was hired by Charles Longworth in 1966, not long after the College was incorporated, and Chuck maintains that Hampshire would not exist without Ken (one of Ken's responsibilities was securing funding for the early buildings – which he obviously did with great success). This year marks the 50th year of Ken's association with Hampshire, and he is a veritable living archive. It seemed only fitting, then, for the Board to name him "Historian of the College."

As you might imagine, the Board spent significant time discussing the climate on campus. There is a constellation of issues facing our community, including moving forward on our anti-racism work, addressing our Title IX supports and procedures, developing an effective structure of community-wide and inclusive governance, and shifting the foundation of all our interactions to a starting premise of good will. The Board is fully committed to supporting and participating in this work. The other major focus of the Board's time was a presentation on retention offered jointly by the Academic Affairs, Student Life, and Enrollment Committees. It was wonderful to see how these three key areas are collaborating to support students across the curriculum and throughout their academic careers.

In terms of Board actions, the trustees voted to approve the faculty's recommendation for awarding the baccalaureate degree to May 2016 graduates – always one of our most meaningful activities! We also voted in favor of the faculty personnel actions proposed by President Lash and Vice President Rueschmann (faculty appointments, leaves, and emeriti status) and to authorize the faculty searches that were identified by means of the strategic faculty hiring process. Additional votes concerned approval of the audited financial statements and approval of changes to the Faculty Handbook to strengthen its language regarding sexual misconduct.

At this meeting the Board welcomed four incoming trustees and bid farewell to five departing trustees. The trustees voted to elect Dayna Cunningham P12, and Richard Hurd 74F to four-year terms on the Board; to elect Eduardo Samaniego 14F as student trustee for a one-year term; to ratify the election of Nirman Dave 15F as student trustee alternate for a one-year term (after which he will become the student trustee); and to ratify the election of Anne Downes, senior associate dean of advising, as staff trustee for a three-year term. In addition to Ken Rosenthal, Marjorie Duneheew (staff trustee), Richmond Mayo-Smith III 70F, Howard Wein 93F, and Juecheng Zhao 12F (student trustee) all concluded their service, and I am grateful to each and every one.

Should you have any questions about the above information, or anything else pertaining to the Board of Trustees, please contact either Beth Ward or me at trustees@hampshire.edu. Have a wonderful summer!