

## MEMORANDUM

Date: February 15, 2016  
To: Members of the Hampshire College community  
From: Gaye Hill, Chair of the Board of Trustees  
Re: February 2016 Board meeting

The Board of Trustees met last week, and I am writing to give you a recap of the proceedings.

First, I should say that President Jonathan Lash was not able to be part of the meeting, as you know. We missed him very much and are so glad he is doing well. At the same time, the trustees were extremely pleased to see how well the College functioned (and is functioning) in his absence. I especially appreciate how capably and thoughtfully Vice President for Academic Affairs Eva Rueschmann has stepped into the role of acting president. I have spoken with Jonathan several times, and have told him how proud he should be of the leadership team he has built. We look forward to seeing him back on campus soon.

At this Board meeting we welcomed two new trustees: Pasha Dritt Thornton 85F and Jose Fuentes 05F. Typically trustee terms begin in September, so I am pleased that Pasha and Jose agreed to start their service before then. We were also delighted to welcome back student trustee alternate Eduardo Samaniego. Pasha, Jose, and Eduardo all bring important experience, knowledge, perspectives, and skills to the work of the Board.

The Board began this meeting with a dialogue about the role of trustees vis-à-vis diversity and inclusion, focusing on furthering our own anti-racism work as a governing body as well as supporting Hampshire's institutional efforts and commitments. This will be an ongoing theme of the Board's internal discussions.

The topics covered at this meeting were wide-ranging: the upcoming NEASC accreditation, the process for strategic faculty hiring, the successful bond approval, the status of the 2016 and 2017 fiscal year budgets, the impact of the First Year Forward retention initiative, the Board's upcoming bylaws review process, and reflections on what motivates our philanthropic contributions as part of our planning for the capital campaign. Of special note, Vice President for Finance and Administration Mary McEneaney and Dean of Enrollment and Retention Meredith Twombly gave a joint presentation on the intersection and interrelationship of admissions and budget

decisions, which was very helpful to our understanding of the nuances and complexities involved in striking the optimal balance.

In terms of Board votes, there were three specific actions at this meeting: to vote the awarding of degrees to February graduates upon the recommendation of the faculty; to approve the faculty appointments, reappointments, and promotions as recommended by Jonathan and Eva in response to the good work of CCFRAP; and to approve the draft audited financial statements. We understand from Eva that the faculty files were uniformly exceptional.

Finally, one of the great pleasures of this meeting was that the trustees had a lovely dinner gathering with the many students, staff, and faculty involved in the work on the Knowledge and Wellness Commons, both as separate initiatives and in combination. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Board to thank those on campus who are working so hard, and for us all to get to know each other better. I offer special thanks to Director of the Library Jennifer Gunter King and Vice President for Student Affairs Byron McCrae for their efforts on this project.