

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 22, 2016
To: Members of the Hampshire College community
From: Gaye Hill, Chair of the Board of Trustees
Re: September 2016 Board meeting

Last week the Hampshire Board of Trustees gathered on campus for our first meeting of this academic year. What an incredible few days! The Board meeting coincided with the dedication of the R.W. Kern Center, truly an inspiring event. The theme of “What Buildings Should Do: Environmentalism and Environmental Justice” infused every part of the program, perfectly capturing Hampshire’s interconnection of education and social justice. Majora Carter, Gary Hirshberg 72F, Bill McKibben, and Jason McLennan played integral roles in the program’s explorations, and hearing them speak about their passions and inspirations was riveting. There were numerous special moments throughout the event, but I was especially moved by hearing student Dante Mena 15F and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Sarah Hews speak about their collaborative learning experience, using the building as a living lab. On behalf of the Board, I extend our heartfelt thanks to the many members of our community, seen and unseen, who did so much to make the celebration possible.

Between and among the Kern festivities, the trustees held our September Board meeting. The first order of business was to welcome newcomers Dayna Cunningham P12, Nirman Dave 15F (student trustee alternate), Anne Downes (staff trustee), Dick Hurd 74F, and Eduardo Samaniego 14F (student trustee) – I know that the Board’s work will benefit greatly from their participation. You can read biographies for all of the trustees on the Board website: <https://www.hampshire.edu/offices/members-of-the-board-of-trustees>.

I am also pleased to announce that the Board elected two additional trustees at this meeting: Maria Vallejo 72F and Ali Mirsepassi. Maria is Vice President for Growth and Expansion and Provost of the Belle Glade and Loxahatchee Groves Campuses of Palm Beach State College; over the years she has encouraged a number of students to transfer to Hampshire. Many of you will remember Ali from his years as a faculty member at Hampshire. He is now professor of Middle East and Islamic Studies and Sociology at New York University, and is a Hampshire parent as well.

Another important action was the Board’s vote to approve the College’s fiscal year 2017 budget. This budget includes the 1% pay increase recommended for staff and faculty,

and also affirms Hampshire's commitment to being a living wage employer by ensuring that no staff member working for the College is paid less than \$15 per hour. As we all know, this has been a rough budget cycle, and the trustees are so grateful for the way the Hampshire community has rallied. Finally, the Board voted to approve the faculty personnel actions (visiting appointments, subsequent ten year reappointments, and contract extensions) recommended by the President.

A significant part of this meeting was devoted to hearing from Jonathan and the senior administrative team about their efforts over the summer to implement various initiatives in support of the campus climate. The highlight was the Board's meal with the co-chairs of the three campus advisory groups: Javiera Benavente and Chris Tinson of the Advisory Council on Speaking Across Resilient Communities (SPARC); Zena Clift and Shannon Da Silva of the Advisory Council on Sexual Misconduct and Campus Safety; and Kristen Luschen and Diana Sutton-Fernandez of the Advisory Council on Hampshire's Commitment to Anti-Racism. Each of the advisory groups is taking on incredibly important work, and the trustees greatly appreciated learning about the co-chairs' perspectives, approaches, and plans. Hampshire is in such good hands, as we are reminded again and again.

I wish everyone a great start of the semester!