Minutes of the Faculty Meeting  
September 7, 2016

I. Report from the Secretary.

The minutes from the previous meeting generated no objections and needed no corrections (not being the product of the current secretary), so they were duly accepted.

II. Reports from College Officers

A. The President’s Report – President Greene offered both gratitude and sympathy to the faculty who weathered the sunshine at the previous day’s convocation. Special thanks were given to returning alumna and new Dean of the College Karlene Burrell-McRae for her contribution, and also to Prof. Rob Weisbrot for his “brilliant” and “beautifully done” Convocation Address. It was a worthy contribution to and continuation of the tradition established by Margaret McFadden and Lydia Moland in the two previous years (and it certainly ratcheted up the pressure on next year’s successor).

Attention was then directed to the Faculty Steering Committee (FSC), still in its first year of operation, and its role in determining the agendas for faculty meetings. The members of the FSC were identified: Jim Fleming, Melissa Glenn, Russell Johnson, Lori Kletzer, Arne Koch, Carleen Mandolfo, Margaret McFadden, and Elizabeth McGrath. Martha Arterberry was noted for her role in the new post of Faculty Moderator for Faculty Meetings.

B. The Provost’s Report – Provost Lori Kletzer took the floor for the traditional ceremony of introducing the newest members of the faculty, negotiating the lengthy list of names in a flawless performance also worthy of the description “beautifully done”. A warm round of applause followed for:

- Jacquelyn Ardam, English
- Natalie Aviles, Sociology
- Valentine Balguerie, French
- Angela Bell, Sociology
- Toby Bercovici, Theater and Dance
- Eleonora Buonocore, Italian
- Catherine Clonan-Roy, Education
- Dave Cusano, Track and Field
- Mike Dacey, Philosophy
- Nicole Denier, Sociology
- Wayne Edwards, Economics
- Alicia Ellis, German
- Brittany Gaetano, Women’s Basketball
- Mary Ellis Gibson, English
and intrepid political cartoonist and Oak Fellow:
  o Khalid Albaih
Kletzer then thanked the faculty who participated in this year’s Regathering, noting how the large turnout contributed to its success. She echoed Greene’s appreciation for Burrell-McRae’s contribution to convocation, but parted company by choosing to characterize Weisbrot as “spectacular” rather than “brilliant”.

C. Dean of the College – Kletzer introduced Burrell-McRae whose inaugural report to the faculty focused on four points:
  (1) Creating more integration between the academic and residential components of students’ experience. Faculty involvement, in addition to the efforts of Lynn Hannum, Betty Sasaki, and McFadden (Title IX Co-ordinator), will be crucial. The faculty-in-residence and technology systems are key components that might need to be revamped.
  (2) Ensuring that all students can benefit from the full range of opportunities. Does the Advising Dean model need to be revamped to make it more pro-active and not just crisis-responsive? Are there gaps between the programs that we do have (Posse, QuestBridge, KIPP, Bunche Scholars, CAPS)?
  (3) Taking a broad approach to task force reports, including meetings across the campus to develop strategic responses.
(4) Focus on Civic Engagement. This has become an increasingly important part of our curriculum and of campus life – as it has at other schools around the country. A review of what others’ Centers for civic engagement are doing is in order.

III. Progress on Academic Initiatives

President Greene provided the context for this year’s discussions by commending the Committee on Mission and Priorities for addressing the question of where to direct our resources. The topics on the table for this meeting are Computational Biology and the Global Colby Task Force Report. How can Colby establish a leadership profile?

A. Computational Biology. Andrea Tilden opened the discussion with a brief survey of the activity at Colby in this area. The computational ability to analyze massive amounts of data allows us to be players in the game when it comes to analyzing genomes, modeling cellular systems, modeling population systems, or modeling ecosystems – and there are Colby faculty working in each of these areas. Research work in genomics is more financially accessible now, as are possibilities for contributions to such applications as targeted treatment for “personalized medicine,” exploring evolutionary parameters, genome editing, and even synthesizing life. Bruce Maxwell took the stage to address the question, “Why Colby? What makes Colby suitable for a program in computational biology?” The answer is that Colby is particularly well suited to contribute in this area because interdisciplinary work is among our strengths: it’s who we have been and what we continue to do, as attested to by our recent graduates who have already been successful in the field. Conversely, the field itself is in need of liberal arts graduates: its complexities implicate ethical dilemmas that require more than narrow technical thinking, no matter how competent. Stephanie Taylor spoke to some of the program specifics. Despite its early successes as the only Computational Biology major at a liberal arts college, our program is still a work in progress: it is open to revisions in response to emerging expectations and feedback from alumni who have entered the field, as well as from our enhanced partnerships with the Bigelow and Jackson Laboratories. Resources for the program will include a bio-informatician in Computer Science, a genomicist in Biology, and a statistician in Mathematics and Statistics; new networking infrastructure with Jackson Labs, UMO, and the NSF; and research funds for new projects. Randy Downer and Kara Kugelmeyer will be the Science IT and Science Librarian point-persons for the program. Students completing this program have already been placed in research labs, graduate programs, and internship opportunities, and have proven to be particularly well prepared for these positions.

Technological glitches curtailed the presentation at this point, prompting the President to wonder how it is that a full professor and chair of the Computer Science program could be “flummoxed by powerpoint.”

The members of the GCTF are: Professors Catherine Besteman (Chair), Dean Allbritton, Cat Collins, Patrice Franko, Ben Fallaw, Walter Hatch, Mary Beth Mills, Mohamedoul Niang, Travis Reynolds, Tanya Sheehan, Judy Stone, and Arnout van der Meer, along with VP and Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid Matt Proto, Director of Grants and Sponsored Programs Bill Layton, students Sara LoTempio ’16 and Abe Krieger ’16, staffed by Sue Forbes from the Office of Off-Campus Study.

The discussions of the Task Force over the previous 5 months were framed by 6 questions posed by President Greene:

- Should we create an expectation that every student will have one or more global experiences? What expectations would be appropriate?
- How might we best support faculty and student research projects that have international components?
- What model should we have for study abroad? Does Jan Plan create special opportunities?
- Are there partnerships and special areas of interest that we should explore?
- Does the international composition of our community – faculty, student body, visitors – need re-thinking or strategic planning?
- Are there areas of the world that deserve particular attention by Colby?

The GCTF report gathers together a lot of data from multiple sources. It results in two clusters of recommendations, general recommendations that are cost-neutral and “radical” recommendation that would require the significant allocation and investment of institutional resources.

IV. Update on additional initiative

As a strategic retreat from the scheduled agenda, in deference to the persistent presence of the aforementioned technological glitches and powerpoint’s formidable flummoxing capacity, the President’s updates on other initiatives was postponed until the next faculty meeting.

No evidence was presented of any connection to the Humanities theme, Revolutions, with its exhortations to subversive action.

V. Old Business

Martha Arterberry re-introduced two motions from the Academic Affairs Committee, held over from last May, so they can be acted upon at the next meeting.

VI. Announcements
Noontime Faculty Forum begins on September 14 with a presentation by Ken Rodman in the Wormser Room of Miller Library. The full fall schedule is appended to the end of these minutes.

Walter Hatch announced the Oak Fellow Lecture, “From Khartoum to Khartoon! Using Cartoons and Social Media to Promote Human Rights,” by Oak Human Rights Fellow Khalid Albaih, at 7:00 on September 14 in Ostrove Auditorium.

Jill Gordon announced that Colby is a Maineshare Campus, with the option for automatic payroll deductions directed to progressive causes here in Maine.

Elizabeth McGrath invited all faculty to Faculty Mumble on Thursday afternoons from 5:00 to 6:00 in the Lovejoy Faculty Lounge.

Maisel moved we adjourn.

Punctiliously submitted,
Dan Cohen
Faculty Secretary
Sept. 12, 2016
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed., Sept. 21</td>
<td>Kevin Rice</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>“To kill a cancer cell: Exploring the anti-tumor activity of an experimental drug”</td>
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<td>Thur., Sept. 29</td>
<td>Sonja Thomas</td>
<td>Women’s, Gender, &amp; Sexuality St.</td>
<td>“Cowboys and Indians: Indian Catholic Priests in Rural Montana”</td>
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<td>Thur., Oct. 6</td>
<td>Elizabeth McGrath</td>
<td>Physics &amp; Astronomy</td>
<td>“Observational Insights to the Formation of the Most Massive Galaxies in the Universe”</td>
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<td>Thur., Oct. 20</td>
<td>Elizabeth LaCouture</td>
<td>History/East Asian Studies</td>
<td>“Property and Middle Class Identity in Tianjin, China from Colonialism to Communism and Today’”</td>
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<td>Wed., Oct. 26</td>
<td>Mary Ellis Gibson</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>“Science Fiction and Revolution”</td>
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<td>Thur., Nov. 3</td>
<td>Ankeney Weitz</td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>“No Limits: Zao Wou-Ki’: The Making of an Exhibition”</td>
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<td>Wed., Nov. 9</td>
<td>Denise Bruesewitz</td>
<td>Environmental Studies</td>
<td>“Examining the role of Ethiopian Orthodox Church Forests in preserving stream ecosystem function and water quality”</td>
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<td>Thur., Nov. 17</td>
<td>Sahan Dissanayake</td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>“Learning from the past: Valuing and restoring ancient irrigation systems –Cascading tank systems in Sri Lanka”</td>
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<td>Thur., Dec. 1</td>
<td>Alicia Ellis</td>
<td>German</td>
<td>“Theorizing Hero and Leander: On the Classical Myth and its Afterlife”</td>
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<td>Thur., Dec. 8</td>
<td>Josh Martin</td>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>“Bugs are people, too: Insights from insects into how brains work”</td>
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