Faculty Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2017

I. Report of the Secretary
   • Minutes for the October meeting were updated with corrections offered by Jorge Olivares.
   • November minutes now include a correction by Laurie Osbourne.

II. Report from Pres. Greene
1. Admissions Update
   • Greene reported the largest ED1 group (signaling an applicant’s 1st choice school) to apply = 200+.
   • ¾ of them are in the top 10% of their class, with an average SAT score of 1410.
   • 33% of this group are students of color
   • 13% of them were first-generation students.
   • It’s worth noting that ED1 students generally represent a more homogeneous group that come from elite schools. (e.g. the Ivies bring in a lot of athletes through early decision)
   • We are happy to report that there are more students of color in this ED1 pool than we used to admit in our entire incoming class.

2. National Environment for Education
   • Immigration: DACA is still in discussion. Greene has joined a college president working group exploring these issues. There seems to be goodwill on Capitol Hill, but we’ll see.
   • Tax reform: Greene worked closely with Sen. Collins to protect Colby through an amendment that would protect college and university endowments up to $500,000 per student (Colby is at $400,000 per student so we’re protected). The house bill does not have this protection.
   • Any tuition reimbursement would be taxed. It could also be devastating for graduate students if their scholarships are taxed as income.
   • The vote is going to come quickly.

3. Enrollments and Finances
   • Oberlin College is not able to fully enroll a class. They are looking at broad scale cuts.
   • Connecticut College has not had full classes over the last few years. They are re-sizing their program toward a smaller scale mission.
   • Hiram College is also not able to enroll a full class. Looking at laying off faculty - including tenured faculty.
   • Doug was with top CFOs looking at entrenchment, running structural deficits from low enrollments. Some of these schools are in our peer group - facing real challenges. This is the reality and we are facing it directly.
   • We are really fortunate and are taking a different approach. We want to come out of this a strong as possible.
Comments:

**Tanya Sheehan (ART)** - do stories about Oberlin change the way you think about how/where Colby is investing? Is it challenging to double down on arts and humanities?

Greene: I actually think it makes it an imperative to do this. Many places cut there first towards an emphasis on students getting a job. The most important places will have an emphasis on the Humanities and the Arts - they will become more important because there will be fewer of them. We are investing 200 million in the Arts and Humanities (Center for Arts and Innovation, museum expansion, Lunder Institute, and the Environmental Humanities). This will distinguish us over time, while we hold true to our mission. I believe it’s the right direction.

**Rafael Scheck (HIS)** - early in your time here you voiced your commitment to liberal arts - being counter–cyclical.

Greene: it’s never been more important than it is now. Alumni talk about the significance of their Colby connections. DavisConnects is actually a way to protect the liberal arts. I want our students to know that “You be can study anything and have extraordinary opportunities”. Internships/research and global experiences will give students permission to study what they want and still have a story to tell.

**Patrice Franco (Econ and GS)** - I was uncomfortable with the postings on the Digest of Civil Discourse, where students were taking the Dare Northward phrase to pit one faction of the school against another.

Greene: pitting parts of the college to against each other is not a productive thing, although students often complain about college campaigns. Dan Lugo did a Facebook live interview in front of the NASDAQ exchange - hits a different demographic. We’re doing this with various partnerships in NYC: oncology research partnerships with Sloan-Kettering, also public theater in the city. We are reaching out to many different organizations to make sure our name is out there and that our students are benefiting. In some cases here, humanities enrollments have dropped by half, but we have maintained faculty levels. Our support remains strong.

III. Margaret McFadden with the Provost’s Report

I know you’re all exhausted and I thank you all for our culture of teaching. I see the work and appreciate it.

- We received our draft report back from NEASC. In general, the report is encouraging. They affirmed our vision of where we are. It was a thoughtful and positive review.
- A reminder to those of you teaching in Jan plan: the library will be closed from December 22nd to January 2nd. Please get any requests for materials in by the 22nd.
- I have a message from the Faculty-in-Residence program: the program has been redesigned in a terrific way. Talk to me or Karlene. There will be new opportunities in the residence hall downtown.

IV. Sandy Maisel: Public Policy Initiative

- We were set up a year ago with the following members: Maisel, Günter, Howard, Nyhus, Gross, Franco, Fleming.
- Spent most of the first half of the semester looking at other undergraduate public policy programs, and also at what graduate programs are looking for.
Our proposal has 3 to 5 different components.
  o An academic program: including macro/micro Econ, statistics, public policy, etc. The courses are common in public policy programs, but it would be different at Colby.
  A. Experiential component
    ▪ Civic Engagement Courses downtown with a public policy emphasis - there’s a need for more diversity.
    ▪ Facilitated Internship Program–run through the Goldfarb Center, a dozen students in the same geography to do internships sponsored by alumni. Piloted this January, students would get together once or twice a week in Washington. They will be mentored through experiences working on Capitol Hill, in the media, while lobbying, and more. This will be important and distinctive.
    ▪ Policy Lab - piloted in January in Peru. A group of students with the faculty mentor will work with an organization that is a client of Colby.
  o Graduate programs with whom we spoke, found our model to be unique.
  o We will also be bringing in experienced practitioners as visitors to teach mini classes. Residencies will be variable in length. We hope to pilot these in the next few years.
  o We need a donor to be excited about this program, allowing us hire a senior member for the faculty with an expertise in public policy.
  o This could wind up being a certification, a major, or a minor. Right now, any student in any major could get some experience in public policy.
  o We have also spoken with University of Chicago about the possibility of the junior year abroad in Chicago, leading perhaps to a five-year program degree. These ideas have grown out of our current strengths.

Patrice Franco (Econ, GS) - I want to acknowledge the partnership with DavisConnects. Fully half of the students in internships are funded, so it opens up opportunity to all.

Sandy Maisel - we’re interested in hearing from any of you who would like to become involved.

Old Business
AAC: Motion to modify the Mathematical Sciences major
  • Motion approved

New Business
  • None

Committee Report
Committee on Mission and Priorities (Adrian Blevins)
  • Committee met six times. Our discussions included:
    o Colby strategic framework (Eminent Colby) for investment
    o We participated in the NEASC reaccreditation: they were excited about CMP
    o We worked with Dan Lugo/Ruth Jackson: Dare Northward
- Campus Climate results
- Increasing the size of the college
- Increasing the visibility of the Oak Institute
- Civic Engagement and Community Partnerships
- Public Policy
- Implications of the new tax code

- People have asked how they can get a document/issue to CMP? Send it to Margaret first and she will see that we get it.

Announcements

Joe Reisert: issued an invitation to teach in an Integrated Studies cluster. There are ways of compensating departments, so if you have any interest, it’s a great experience with amazing first-year students.

Sandy Maisel moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned - 5 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Bevin Engman
Faculty Secretary