

**Provost's Advisory Council  
Summary of Nov. 9, 2017 Meeting  
8:30-10 am, Lynch Center, Fulton 515**

Laura O'Dwyer (6	mÂ (	Thomas Crea IL (	Joseph Du Pont L
		Kent Greenfield	John Rakestraw
		Sharon Beckman	Richard Lennan
		Mariela Paez	Jasmine Hamm
		Theresa O'Keefe	David Quigley
		Claudia Pouravelis	Billy Soo
		Sasha Tomic	Joseph Carroll
Ronnie Sadka		Stanton Wortham	Thomas Chiles
William Fehder		Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.	Akua Sarr
Stephanie Berzin		Thomas Wall	Nanci Tessier

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**1. The summary of the October 4, 2017 meeting was approved.** It will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website; members are encouraged to share them with colleagues.

**2.**

important thing is to plan ahead of time and identify where all the exits are in any room. Students will typically rely on the faculty member to lead the way in these situations. You also need to think about your own welfare. A council member raised the issue of people calling their loved ones during an emergency thereby drawing attention to them and their group. John T. said you can reach out to your loved ones to let them know that you're okay but asked people not to call the police to ask what's going on because they're going to be very busy with the situation. You should only call them if you have new information. John K. also said that in an emergency situation, it is very likely that the calls will not be answered because of the volume of calls coming in. He also advised council members to trust your instincts.

A council member asked if we should require everyone to subscribe to the BC alert system instead of making it voluntary. John T. says 93% of all students enroll while faculty and staff is at around 85%. The high subscription rates are partly because they only use it for emergency situations and not as a calendar notification. He also said that the government is imposing restrictions on when you can make app subscriptions an OPT-out instead of an OPT-in. The council member also asked if a faculty member wants to get more training, what can they do? John T. says they offer a class on dealing with emergencies, and they welcome coming in to present to departments or schools. The council member also asked what the group is doing to prevent events like this. John K. says they work with student affairs (athletics, counselling service, etc.) all the time to consider possible cases like this. They also work with HR and have a good working relationship with all their offices. They are also in communication with other national, state and local security agencies for possible threats and emergency situations. John T. emphasized that they have many inputs to evaluate possible situations. He wants people to follow the principle of "See Something, Say Something" and to bring attention to people on the campus if suspicious situations arise.

A council member asked that aside from the moral obligation to take care of the students, is there a legal obligation to care for the students first? David responded that besides the moral, there is also a professional, obligation to help our students.

A council member asked about the rules on carrying a gun on campus. John K. says that MA law prohibits anyone from bringing a gun to campus and it is a felony if you do so. A council member also said that you should never position your desk such that a visitor sitting in an office chair stands between you and the exit door. A number of handouts were distributed to the council members.

David stated that John T. and John K. will also present to the deans at their council meeting.

### **3. Patricia Bando, Associate Vice President of Auxiliary Services, Tina Plotegher, Director of the BC Bookstore and Andrew Mitchell, Assistant Director on the BC Bookstore**

Pat, Tina and Andrew introduced themselves to the council. Tina replaces long-time Director Bob Stewart and Andrew replaces Carol Gertz, who used to handle textbook and course materials for the bookstore. Pat talked about the new contract that BC has entered into with Follett on operating the BC bookstore. Tina then talked about the importance of notifying the

bookstore early on what course materials they will be adopting for the next semester. This is particularly important for fall adoptions so that the bookstore can determine sufficiently early which textbooks they will need to buy back from students at the end of spring semester. Knowing which books will be reused also allows them to offer a higher buyback price to the students. She also pointed out that New England has a relatively late start to the school year and as a result, schools in the southern states tend to capture most of the used textbooks in the market, leaving little for the New England market.

A council member mentioned that the book store web site could be made easier for textbook adoptions. Tina and Pat mentioned that Follett has its own software that makes it easier to make textbook adoptions but our IT department is still reviewing the security and connectivity of the Follett software to our IT system. Tom Wall mentioned that the library will assist any faculty with developing and using affordable course materials. Tina mentioned that the bookstore also offers affordable alternatives including rentals and digital texts. BC is among the top campuses in terms of textbook rentals. They also provide digital options and a price match program with other online textbook providers such as Amazon. Follett has also partnered with Lumen Learning on digital learning that is oftentimes cheaper than hard copy textbooks. Tina encouraged faculty to talk to them to help find cheaper alternatives and to help students who may not be able to afford the textbooks.

A council member asked what the average cost of a textbook is and Tina mentioned that the average cost is only \$40, which is down 6% from last year because of rentals. When asked what a reasonable price is, Tina says that anything above \$50, students start to question whether the book is worth acquiring. Andrew mentioned that the average total course materials costs range from \$75-150. A council member asked if the bookstore breaks even or makes a profit on the textbooks. Tina responds that the bookstore only breaks even after paying the commissions to the university.. A council member asked if the bookstore still sells general books. Tina mentions that while they have a smaller display of general books, their selection covers the best-sellers and sales from these kinds of books have not declined. A council member asked how faculty would know if rentals or used textbooks are available for their class? Andrew says to email him and he will let them know the different options. A council member asked why there isn't internet service at the back of the bookstore. The bookstore was surprised and said that they would look into it. They also mention that once Follett integrates with the BC IT system, network services should improve.

#### **4. Provost's Report**

David provided an update on recent race-related campus incidents. A number of Black Lives Matter signs were defaced on campus and a student posted on social media a racially offensive snapchat posting. The student was identified and is no longer on campus. Additional information cannot be provided because of FERPA rules. There were also rallies on campus sponsored by UGBC and another group involving a walkout from class and a march from McElroy to Corcoran Commons. David noted and appreciated the level of faculty participation in the march. There have been meetings between the administration and UGBC to go over how the university can improve the campus climate. Among those being discussed are: (1) Putting in place an online

module or course on diversity inclusivity for all incoming freshmen. We already have a live discussion at orientation but are sympathetic to adding such a module. (2) Build a student experience survey similar to the Faculty/Staff survey that was conducted in 2015. IRPA is evaluating how this can be done. (3) Increase faculty diversity hiring in CSOM and the STEM disciplines in MCAS in addition to the overall hiring where we've made more progress. (4) Strengthen diversity training for all faculty and expand diversity courses or training offerings to faculty. Dan Bunch has also been invited to come back from retirement as a special assistant to Barb Jones.

A number of council members related their own experiences following the incidents on campus. Some members mentioned that their AHANA students reported not feeling safe as a result of the incidents and noted that this can have negative reputational repercussions on the school. Several members offered suggestions including: offering new courses that address concerns on race and hierarchy for both undergraduate and graduate students; better communication from the administration on steps being taken to address the incidents; targeted training for faculty on how to better address these issues in class; providing more diverse portraiture on campus; sharing activities or programs across schools to avoid duplication of efforts; and engaging a more diverse group of admission tour guides.

A council member also related how their department is still reeling from the incident because the student who sent the offensive snapchat is a major in their department. Another council member noted that these types of incidents do not occur in a vacuum and are a reflection of the current political environment.