

College Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18, 2020
4:15-5:45 p.m., Zoom Meeting

Present:

Council Members:

Staff: Carolyn Livingston, Bev Nagel, Jenny Pexa (Secretary), Steve Poskanzer, Sara Nielsen, Fred Rogers, Kendra Strode, Debby Walser-Kuntz

Faculty: Sonja Anderson, Carol Donelan, Greg Marfleet, George Shuffelton

Alumni Observer: Joan Ostergren '81, P'14, P'20

Students: Andrew Farias '21, Sid Hirshberg '21, Libby McCrea '22, Luke Norquist '21, Bill Yang '21

Absent: Nic Puzak '81, P'20

Guests: Rhemi Abrams-Fuller, Deborah Appleman, Elise Eslinger, Éva Pósfay

President Steve Poskanzer called the meeting to order at 4:18 pm.

Decision: The minutes from the meeting of April 27, 2020 were approved.

President's Report

The President reviewed his recent letter to the community describing where the College stands in its decision-making for the 2020-21 academic year, noting that the clear preference is to bring students back to campus as soon as is possible. He explained that several committees will be gathering necessary data, studying approaches being taken by our peers, and will be carefully considering financial models as a result of the measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Board Recap

The Board met via Zoom and approved the Circulation & Parking Plan that was previously shared with this Council.

Dean Livingston shared the results of the analysis her Division conducted—with the help of external consultants—on student health. The College is seeking to develop a thoughtful and economically-sustainable model of services, facilities, and staffing—all premised on a wise philosophy of care that is consonant with Carleton's unique physical location, culture, and approach to education.

In consultation with the Carleton Responsible Investment Committee (CRIC) and following a recommendation from the Investment Committee, the full Board confirmed that the Investment Office will now consider the Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) aspects of current and potential investments to make wise long-term evaluations of their likely returns. The President explained that this kind of ESG investing has been growing in use among our peer schools.

Finally, the Trustees thanked Fred Rogers for his service and met our new VP & Treasurer, Eric Runestad.

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee Update (AFAC)

Professor of Educational Studies and AFAC Chair Deborah Appleman provided an update from the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC).

She cited 2019-2020 accomplishments of the Committee:

- Welcomed and offered support to our new Vice-President and Dean of Admissions
- Reconsidered the structure of admitted student days; eliminated faculty dinners
- Discussed ways to enhance faculty/departmental interface with admitted students
- Read Nathan Grawe's, *Demographics and the Demand for Higher Education*
- Hosted a lunch session with AFAC, Admissions, and the Budget Committee
- Voted to go test-optional for academic year 2020-21
- Read *The Privileged Poor* and discussed how to better support low-income students.

Professor Appleman shared with the Council that AFAC is continuing discussions on: whether the move to test-optional should be permanent; assessing the results of the pandemic on admissions and financial aid; working to achieve balanced socioeconomic diversity; and reimagining Admitted Student Days.

Other members of the 2019-20 AFAC include: faculty members Yaron Klein and Melinda Russell, staff members Art Rodriguez, Rod Oto, Jane Rizzo, Todd Jamison and Linda Mueller, and student members Santi Rico and Kevin Phung.

Community, Equity & Diversity Initiative Report (CEDI)

CEDI Co-Chairs, Associate Dean of Admissions, Rhemi Abrams-Fuller, and Professor of French, Éva Pósfay, began their report by providing an overview of the CEDI mission and structure. They reminded the Council of CEDI's charge for the year:

- Increase CEDI's visibility through campus outreach and work with Carleton's governance structures.
- Assist with implementing recommended changes stemming from the spring 2019 employee survey.

- Support dialogue and other convocation and common time-related efforts to enhance the engagement of the campus in conversations and activities that build community.
- Assist with campus communications about actions taken to address issues raised in the 2017 Bathrooms Action Team Report.
- Monitor emerging issues and assisted Tuesday Group and the campus community to respond in proactive ways.

And they highlighted completed and ongoing actions of the group to address the charge:

- Revised the CEDI website and posted the completed diversity resource cataloguing project online. (Further promotion of this completed project to come.)
- Ongoing work to help reconnect the campus community with the Low Income First Generation assessment and report from May 2016 and the initiatives that have stemmed from that process. CEDI is raising awareness about resources available and supporting efforts to expand financial literacy opportunities for students through the appointment of two Action Teams, both of which will extend work into the 2020-21 academic year.
- Continuing work to increase CEDI's visibility through campus outreach and work with Carleton's governance structures.
- Supported dialogue and other convocation and common time-related efforts to enhance the engagement of the campus in conversations and activities that build community.
- Continued to assist with campus communications about actions taken to address issues raised in the 2017 Bathrooms Action Team Report.

Pandemic Scenarios

Vice President and Treasurer Fred Rogers, and Dean of the College Bev Nagel, provided some in-progress fiscal and operational planning scenarios for the 2020-21 academic year. Though still in the development phase, the following areas were reviewed:

Financial Forecasting Considerations and Operating Revenue Impact:

- Public Health and Carleton community well-being
- Enrollment and operational delivery
- Influence of economy on financial aid need
- Endowment impact on FY22 and forward
- Influence of economy on giving

Next Steps:

- Further analysis of academic delivery options
- In-depth expense review
- Updating actual endowment returns at fiscal year end
- Continued discussions with peers on best practices
- Utilization of campus governance structure
- Tentative fall operation decision in July

President Poskanzer notified the Council that there will be College Council meetings scheduled over the summer, dates forthcoming.

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Pexa, July 1, 2020