

Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees met on campus from January 19-21, 2017. The following is a brief summary of major items discussed and actions taken at their meeting.

1. The board ratified the appointment of Jim Reische as Chief Communication Officer, effective January 2, 2017.
2. The board received an update on the FY 2017 budgets from Vice President for Finance & Administration Fred Puddester.
3. The board received an update on the *Teach It Forward* campaign from Associate Vice President for Development Lew Fisher. Associate VP Fisher also discussed recent participation in the Alumni Fund, an important element of the campaign.
4. The board received an update from Chief Investment Officer Collette Chilton on recent investment performance of the endowment.
5. Provost Dukes Love made the annual presentation to the board of the financial fundamentals of the college, describing major sources of revenue and expense and their evolution over time.
6. Trustees heard, and then discussed, a presentation about the financial aid program from Associate Provost Chris Winters, focusing particularly on ways additional investment in the financial aid program might be used to address the stresses experienced by middle income families.
7. Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration Matthew Sheehy and Chief Information Officer Barron Koralesky reported on the college's ongoing efforts to mitigate enterprise risk, with special attention paid to information security.
8. The Board approved honorary degrees for those to be recognized at commencement in June. As usual, the names of the honorees will be announced to the community in March.
9. The Board ratified the award of tenure to four members of the faculty: Rashida Braggs (Africana Studies), Nicholas Howe (Environmental Studies), Tim Lebetsky (Biology), and Catherine Stroud (Psychology).
10. The Board approved the comprehensive fee for the 2017-18 academic year, to be announced later this spring.
11. With College Counsel Jeff Jones, the Board discussed the college's approach to supporting students who are either undocumented or enrolled in the DACA program.
12. The Board heard from Diala Issam Al Masri, CDE '15, who was recently awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for study at Oxford University.

13. The Committee on Student Experience discussed academic support services, including the Office of Accessible Education, the Math Science Resource Center, the Peer Tutoring Program, and the Writing Program. The agenda of the Committee on Faculty and Instruction was Technology and Design in the Williams Classroom. The Committee on Operations and Planning heard presentations on the college's infrastructure improvement plan and the Green Gauges program for assessing the additional investment made in new buildings in service of sustainability. In addition to the usual updates, the Committee on Budget and Financial Planning heard reports on the Williamstown Solar Project and changes in the employee health insurance programs. The Committee on College Relations and Public Affairs heard an update on engagement strategies for alumni fund participation, discussed the college's social media strategy, and reviewed the college's financial contributions in the past year to support the local community, the largest of which was the \$5M committed to the Mount Greylock Regional School building project.

On Thursday and Friday nights, respectively, trustees participated in small dinners with members of the faculty and with members of the staff. On Friday afternoon, the trustees hosted a well-attended open reception for students.