

Provost's Advisory Council
Meeting
8:30-10am, Lynch Center, Fulton 515

David suggested that PAC representatives discuss with their Deans the most efficient ways to distribute the information.

4. Introduction to Mara Hermano, Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning

Sharon introduced Maria (Mara) Hermano, Vice President for Institutional Research and Planning.

Mara explained that she is wrapping up her first month at BC and briefly discussed her background. Prior to coming to BC, she served as the Vice President of Integrated Planning at Rhode Island School of Design. In that ~~role~~ managed a similar portfolio to what she will be doing at BC. Before being named Vice President, she served in a number of roles,

historically been regional are now classified as national. As a result, the number of schools in our ranking category increases

- x The high school counselor assessment was removed entirely from the methodology. There remains a peer assessment measure. The weight previously given to the counselor assessment was added to the assessments provided by presidents and provosts. BC improved in this measure from 3.6 to 3.7.

In the Wall Street Journal/Times Higher Education Rankings BC moved up from 67 to 59 this year. This ranking has been around for about 10 years and is much more volatile than U.S. News.

Admissions Updates Admissions leaders from across the country will be meeting in Nashville at the annual National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) meeting. Under pressure from the Department of Justice (DOJ) NACAC has proposed changes to its Code of Ethics and Professional Practices removing a number of guidelines which the DOJ views as a violation of antitrust laws and detrimental to students. The proposed changes would eliminate the following guidelines:

- x Prohibiting colleges and universities from offering incentives to students to entice them to apply under the binding early decision category
- x Prohibiting colleges and universities from recruiting after the universal May 1 deposit deadline, with the exception of students admitted off of a wait list
- x Prohibiting colleges and universities from actively recruiting transfer students who have not already expressed interest in transferring

NACAC has asked the membership to willingly strike the three guidelines in order to bring an end to the multi-year investigation by the DOJ. The NACAC Assembly will be voting on the changes at the annual meeting.

More locally, BC has moved to Early Decision 1 and Early Decision 2 programs. A memo will be circulated to the University community regarding the impact on admissions for the children of BC faculty and staff. Additionally, there will be information sessions hosted by HR and Admissions to help families think through the admissions process.

300 Hammond Pond Parkway Land Newton Mayor Ruthanne Fuller has begun the process of acquiring 17 acres of Webster Woods through eminent domain. The land is part of the property that BC purchased in 2016 for \$20M, located at 300 Hammond Pond Parkway.

David concluded with a reminder that Bryan Stevenson, Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama and author of *Just Mercy*, will be on campus as part of the Lowell Humanities Series on Wednesday, October 9 at 7 pm Conte Forum.

Billy Soo provided an update on the globalization initiative. During the Faculty Annual Reporting period last year, faculty were asked to input their global experiences

global map that faculty and others within and outside the University could use to search for faculty with experience in a certain country. He demonstrated a prototype of the map (https://www.bc.edu/content/bc-web/sites/training/_aem63-upgradetesting/kul-core/global/globalactivity/globalactivity-full.html) based on the input that has been received thus far. Faculty who have not done so will be asked again this year to fill out the global section of their Annual Report to continue to build out the database of activities for the map.

Tom Chiles provided an update on the Schiller construction. The building is on schedule, and the excavation of the site will continue through the winter. The key permits from the city of Newton were approved last week. In February a large tower crane that will be used to frame the building will be built on the site. There is an about-up that meets weekly for updates on the major construction elements of the coming week.

David opened the meeting for questions, concerns, or proposed topics for future meetings

A council member raised the parking situation on campus and the difficulties experienced by faculty members, noting that if a faculty member comes to campus in the middle of the day, there is very limited parking availability. Some faculty are opting to not come to campus at all because of the challenges. Another council member mentioned additional difficulties with the access gates in the garages.

Billy responded that he would bring the concerns to John Savino.

A council member suggested that it would be useful to review the use and value of student evaluations. There is a lot of talk towards evaluations and anxiety among the faculty with the seeming movement towards relying on a single score on the evaluations without looking at the full teaching profile.

Billy responded that the University Council on Teaching has been reviewing course evaluations for the past year and a half. The group has been looking at new evaluation tools, and is crafting a list of recommendations to not only change the questions, but to emphasize that the final student evaluations are just one part of what should be a multi-evaluation process.

A council member asked about classroom space availability, primarily for special events and impromptu use such as short notice use of a room for a talk by a visitor, and wondered what faculty should do when they have last minute space needs.

David noted that IR&P is helping with space planning and maximizing space utilization. One challenge however is that during key teaching times, space can be booked far in advance, as space is often held through add/drop to ensure appropriate classrooms are available.

Stacy Grooters, Interim Director of the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), reminded the group that there were changes over the summer to the CTE. A new center was created, the Center for Digital Innovation in Learning (CDIL), which will work primarily on online and

hybrid course development and back end support of Canvas. The CTE remains committed to supporting faculty in their classroom pursuits throughout their careers. She noted that faculty with questions about either center or the distribution of support are welcome to reach out to her.