

**Provost's Advisory Council**  
**Thursday, March 25, 2021**  
**8:30-10:00 a.m. - Zoom**

**In attendance:**

Sharon Beckman (Chair)  
Anthony Annunziato  
Michelle Elias Bloomer  
Mary Ellen Carter  
Joseph Du Pont  
Kristin Flower  
Yonder Gillihan  
Stacy Grooters  
Christian Guma  
Angela Harkins

Dewin Hernandez  
Regine Jean-Charles  
Gregory Kalscheur, S.J.  
William Keane  
Thomas Kohler  
Adam Krueckeberg

Student Affairs has been working with Lise Leist, a current BC Trustee who specializes in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program evaluation and development, to review DEI programming within the division.

There is also an ongoing review of the *DiversityEdu* platform which all freshman go through. There is a need to engage with the rest of the student body in a planned and intentional manner. There is additional content via *DiversityEdu* that could be leveraged to engage students throughout their time at BC, or other competency modules may be needed. Student Affairs has been working with Mission and Ministry's First-Year Experience to integrate their diversity trainings as well as working with others across campus to design workshops to engage in these important conversations.

Following the recent mass shooting in Georgia, communication went out to students offering support resources, and a candlelight vigil was held on Maloney lawn. Through the Office of Institutional Diversity and Vice Provost Akua Sarr, there was also a Courageous Conversations event addressing anti-Asian racism and violence.

Mike introduced Tom Mogan, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement and Formation, to discuss engagement with students around racial incidents on campus and around the country, as well as the University's ongoing COVID-19 response.

Tom began with a review of the response to racial incidents. Last summer there were conversations with student groups across campus to address concerns and hear how BC could be more supportive. The DEI committee within Student Affairs created spaces for staff to prepare to support and engage students in the fall. Once students returned to campus, Student Affairs helped to support activism on campus. In coordination with the Forum on Racial Justice and student groups, there was a Solidarity for Racial Justice event in the fall, which facilitated conversations and commitments to solidarity and action.

Early in the spring semester, there was a Winterfest event that featured food, fire pits, and outdoor games, and a Turks and CaiStokes event provided students with a spring-break-type event. Additional initiatives planned for the spring semester include:

Equinox – an event similar to Winterfest, looking toward the spring equinox, which will feature a senior-week type atmosphere for students

For first-year students, spaces equipped with games can be reserved in O’Connell House for groups of up to six students to gather

Baldwin’s Backyard will begin in April and will provide outdoor gathering spaces

BC After Dark will transform Hillside café and the adjacent plaza into a sports bar type atmosphere for students who are 21+

Tom discussed the ongoing concern for student gatherings and violations to the student code of conduct. Most of the violations have been due to large gatherings. There has been consistent messaging to students about their responsibilities and consequences for violations.

A council member requested a formal system to inform faculty about racial incidents on campus, noting that faculty sometimes hear about incidents from students during class. A council member added that improved communication would allow faculty to make better use of resources available to them in preparing for conversations with students.

Mike acknowledged the need to disseminate information in a timely manner, and this is a topic of ongoing conversations.

A council member asked for increased communication to graduate students around commencement and options for in-person programming for the end of the academic year.

Mike responded that larger scale events will depend on the vaccine rollout and the state limitations on gathering sizes. Additional correspondence around plans for the end of the semester will be coming soon. Tom added that Student Affairs is aware of the graduate student specific concerns and is working with Carole Hughes on them.

Mike then introduced Melinda Stoops, Associate Vice President for Student Health and W



Early May: Student Accounts. Note: Student Accounts has already launched but continues to integrate with UIS, and will switch to full integration with Eagle Apps in May.

Late May/June: Registration for the fall semester

Summer: Degree Audit, Grading, and Transcripts

Summer: The first class graduating out of Eagle Apps will occur.

Mary continued, discussing the summer registration timeline. Eagle Apps will provide students an opportunity to plan their schedules via a course-planning module that will be available to them before the registration period opens. Registration for the various schools will be spread out in April to allow for the best possible support to students and troubleshooting, as necessary. Registration for the fall semester has been pushed back to late May and June to allow for additional planning to accommodate a higher volume of students registering. Advising will happen prior to students leaving campus, with registration happening after Commencement. Pandemic conditions have led many peer schools to take a similar approach.

Jen Mack provided some background on the work thus far. Course Management and Course Offerings were deployed in mid-December and since then, there have been 18 additional deployments to production with new features, functions, and bug fixes. A support module was implemented which utilizes the BC Works ticket system. There have been 17 group-training sessions attended by over 300 staff members, and over 80 one-on-one training sessions. An Eagle Apps curriculum has been developed in Canvas with 19 training videos currently available across different subject areas. Eventually, every module will have a Canvas training component as well as quick snippet help videos that link from within the application.

Jen responded that there will be both an internal and a public facing version of the course schedule. The internal version is already live, and the public version will go live soon.

#### **4. Provost's Report: David Quigley, *Provost and Dean of Faculties***

Billy Soo provided an update on the academic calendar for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 academic years, which are close to being finalized. The proposed calendar includes a four-day fall break around the Columbus Day holiday. Options for condensing the calendar are being considered, including shortening the exam period which, currently at eight days, is longer than most peer institutions.

Billy continued, discussing the new Massachusetts paid family medical leave law that took effect on January 1, 2021. There are some details still being worked out, but in most cases, faculty leaves will not change. Maternity leaves will be broken into a six-week medical recovery leave and a twelve-week bonding leave, still resulting in a full-semester of leave. The most significant change to BC's faculty policy is that the non-birthing parent is now also entitled to a two nine Tc 0 T4(r)391tw4.92 Dd 5n 0 TTJ ty 9JTJ 02r 7dB m

