



**Summary of Special Session
November 16, 2018**

The Boston University Faculty Council held a special session on November 16 at 9:00 a.m. in the Metcalf Trustee Center, 1 Silber Way, 9th floor to meet with the Strategic Planning Task Force. The Task Force has been conducting listening sessions with faculty, staff and students this semester and will continue to do so through the next semester.

Current and past members of the Faculty Council attended: Cataldo Leone (GSDM); Marnie Reed (WCEHD); Leslie Will (GSDM); Eileen O’Keefe (Sargent); J. Robb Dixon (Questrom); Wendy Mariner (SPH); Jeffrey Allen (Questrom); Doug DeNatale (MET); Jeffrey Gavornik (CAS); Mark Williams (Questrom); Don Smith (Questrom); Gina Powers (Questrom); Kathryn Webster (Sargent); Hee-Young Park (GMS); Yvette Cozier (SPH); Margo Miller (CELOP); Steve Brady (MED); Sami Chogle (GSDM); Kelly Pesanelli (Sargent); Lou Chitkushev (MET); Andy Andres (CGS); Felice Amato (CFA); Judy Austin (COM)

Roscoe Giles, Professor of Electrical Engineering (ENG), and Kimberly McCall, Chair and Professor of Biological Sciences (CAS/GRS), opened the discussion by first posing questions about the future of higher education. These were a standard set of questions used in all the listening sessions. They further asked the Faculty Council to assess the University’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, and to think about how the University might position itself as an exceptional institution.

The faculty responded with considerable enthusiasm and engagement. They discussed a wide-range of subjects including: the undergraduate curriculum; the University’s teaching and research missions; the changing demographics of both the students and the faculty; the technological developments that may create new industries for which we will have to prepare our students; and what it means to be a global university and also a local university. The faculty talked about how to be more accessible to “first generation” college students, and to those who come from under-served communities.

At the end of the session, Prof. Giles and Prof. McCall outlined the next steps in the Strategic Planning process. Chair Leone thanked them on behalf of the entire group and invited them to present an update at another Faculty Council meeting, as their schedules permit.