

Boston University Faculty Council  
Minutes of the Meeting  
October 7, 2014

The second regular meeting of the Boston University Faculty Council for the 2014-2015 Session was held on October 7, at 3:30 p.m. in the Photonics Colloquium Room, 8 St. Mary's Street. Steve Brady, Chair of the Faculty Council, presided over the meeting. The following members attended:

Andy Andres (CGS), R.  
Kazem Azadzoi (MED), R.  
Canan Corlu (MET), R.  
Ted de Winter (ENG), R.  
Ana di Robilant (LAW), Alt.  
Ivan Fernandez-Val (CAS), R.  
Walter Fluker (STH), R.  
Moshe Hagigi (SMG), R.  
Gisela Hoecherl-Alden (CAS), R.  
Walter Hopp (CAS), R.  
Allyn Hubbard (ENG), R.  
Barry Kadets (SMG), R.  
Eleni Kanasi (GSDM), R.  
Sean Kealy (LAW), R.  
Rebecca Kinraide (CAS), R.  
Frank Korom (CAS), R.  
Susan Lee (CGS), R.  
Cataldo Leone (GSDM), R.  
Leonid Levin (CAS), R.  
Luz Lopez (SSW), Alt.  
David Lyons (LAW), Alt.  
Jordana Muroff (SSW), R.  
Eileen O'Keefe (SAR), R.  
Joshua Pederson (CGS), Alt.  
Safoura Rafazeideh (COM), Alt.  
Nader Rahimi (MED), R.  
Marnie Reed (SED), R.  
Sheila Rodriguez-Vamvas (GSDM), Alt.  
Woosung Sohn (GSDM), R.  
Anne Sullivan-Soydan (SAR), Alt.  
Martha Thompson (CAS), R.  
Erinn Tucker (SHA), R.  
Barry Unger (MET), Alt.  
Kathryn Webster (SAR), Alt.

Lauren Wise (SPH), R.  
Charles White (SED), R.  
Jason Yust (CAS), R.  
Ann Zumwalt (MED), R.

Committee Chairs

John Carroll, Media and Communication  
D. Lynn O'Brien Hallstein, Teaching  
Gwynneth Offner, Administrative  
Policies  
James Hamilton, Research  
Janelle Heineke, Faculty Policies  
Shiela Kibbe-Hodgkins, Awards  
Celeste Kong, Compensation and  
Benefits  
Hee-Young Park, Graduate Programs  
Robert Volk, Credentials and By-laws  
Joyce Walsh, Student Policies

Officers

Steve Brady, Chair  
Kathe Darr, Past Chair  
J. Robb Dixon, Secretary-Treasurer

Members without a vote

Doreen Miller, R. CELOP

Guest

President Robert Brown

### I. Secretary's Report

The minutes of the September 9, 2014 meeting were approved.

### II. Chair's Report

Chair Brady reminded the Council that the first University Council meeting will be on October 15 and reviewed the criteria for membership on University Council. He also said that all members of the Faculty Council should be receiving requests to comment on new degree and curriculum proposals on the eCAP system. All Faculty Council members are eligible to comment and are encouraged to do so.

The Chair informed the Council that he attended the Board of Trustees meeting. The Capital Campaign has raised \$730 million so far. The Trustees discussed the first recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing – divestment from manufacturers of civilian firearms. The Trustees are considering whether to adopt this recommendation. Chair Brady sits on the Board of Trustees Student Life Committee. That committee is concerned with Title IX as it relates to student athletics and sexual assault.

The Benefits Committee continues to meet and is scheduled to deliver its recommendations to President Brown in January 2015.

### III. VOTE: CAS Dean Search Advisory Committee Members

The University Provost issued a call to form a CAS Dean Search Advisory Committee. Pursuant to the Faculty Handbook, the Faculty Council elects two (2) faculty members to serve on the committee. The Faculty Council office sent a call for nominations via broadcast email to the Faculty Assembly members prior to the meeting. There being a quorum, the voting members of the Faculty Council elected the following people to serve on the Committee:

Judith Chaffee  
Associate Professor  
College of Fine Arts  
Head of movement for performance sequence

Walter Fluker  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Professor of Ethical Leadership  
Editor and Director, The Howard Thurman Papers Project  
School of Theology

Chair Brady informed the Council that Provost Morrison issued a call to form a dean search advisory committee for the College of Fine Arts as well. Given the time frame

that she has outlined, the election will be held via an online ballot.

#### IV. Guest: President Robert Brown

President Robert Brown joined the meeting. He informed the Council that his fall “state of the University” letter will be published this week.

The University has had a good year. It completed two successful dean searches for Sargent College and the School of Public Health. This year’s freshman class have the highest GPAs and test scores to date. The targeted class size was 3700 and we admitted 3920. The targeted class size for next year will be 3600. Fifteen percent (15%) of the incoming class are under-represented minority students, a slight improvement from last year.

President Brown reported on the Capital Campaign. We are about to pass the 100,000 donor mark. The President reported that the Capital Campaign is expected to hit the \$900 million mark next year, two years before the scheduled end date of the campaign. It will be a challenge to keep the momentum going.

Alumni weekend was well-attended; 7500 alumni participated this year. The University made the list for schools garnering the highest donations; we are ranked at 25. This is the first time we have made the list.

A general discussion followed. The President discussed the new structure of the University Council (“UC”). The Board of Trustees approved the changes to the UC Constitution. They had no apprehension about voting on these changes. President Brown said that he hopes it will become a more collaborative and deliberative body. He wants to devote UC meetings to productive discussion of academic business, rather than funneling the discussions into silos. By reducing the number of UC Committees, he hopes that those committees will have real work to do and will make substantive presentations at the UC for discussion. At the first UC meeting they will present a flowchart for policy making.

President Brown noted that the recent Times of London rankings show federal universities climbing and US universities are beginning to fall. The decline in federal research dollars is the driver. The United States is the only country with private universities in the list of top 200; other countries subsidize university education and research more than the U.S. does.

The Council sent questions to President Brown prior to the meeting and asked him to comment on this year’s dean searches for the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Fine Arts. President Brown said that a dean search is one of the most

important hires that a University makes. These searches are different. CAS is a different search due to its size and its relationship to the other schools and colleges and to the research mission of the University. CFA is a more focused search.

The President said that the aging of the faculty is a rising concern. He anticipates that the turnover of faculty will create a crunch on lab space for new faculty. The plans for a new life sciences building that will be unveiled this fall. The permitting process with the City is moving along.

A Council member asked if the aging faculty is a similar concern on the MED campus. The President said that most of the MED faculty are active researchers, so it is not an equivalent concern

The discussion turned to academic units that are on the cusp of making a big improvement but are severely constrained and need new resources. The President said that the budget inflows are constrained by tuition pressure and the aforementioned strains on research funding. The University is working to develop and market new, innovative graduate programs. The University will also spend resources to systematize the application process for professional graduate programs.

President Brown identified two targets for improving efficiencies: procurement and consolidating vendors for copiers. Consolidating vendor for copiers and reducing the number of desk top printers is expected to save \$500,000. The total procurement budget is about \$500 million per year.

A Council member asked about what the University is doing to reduce energy costs. The President said that current initiatives have 3-5 year paybacks. While lighting is a common target to improve energy efficiency, the amount of energy lighting expends is a fraction of the energy used to ventilate laboratories.

President Brown informed the Council that the Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing brought forward proposal on firearms. President Brown and Chair Brady said that there was a robust discussion about process for dealing with such proposals. The Board of Trustees will vote on the Committee's recommendation to divest from civilian firearms in December, 2014. The President said that he is concerned about when it is appropriate for the University to take a public position on a political or social issue. Universities should encourage the free and open exchange of ideas. When an institution takes a position, it shuts down the conversation. There are times when an institution should take a position, but the question is when? President Brown posed that when some thing causes an unacceptable social harm, may be the time for the University to take a public position.

President Brown was asked whether the Med budget was part of the discussion for President? He answered yes, that he is engaged in oversight of budgeting for the entire university – both CRC and MED. When asked about the impact of declining government research funding, he reported that while the labs are declining in size, faculty numbers have remained stable.

The President informed the Council that the Board of Trustees approved an institutional diversity statement. He acknowledged that faculty recruiting is a big challenge to move this agenda forward. The first step will be to establish a standard of reporting to the Board. The President discussed the pool of available faculty and the need to broaden faculty searches and avoid undue disciplinary constraints to attract candidates who want to join the University.

A Council member asked if an outside consultant could be hired to evaluate the data on retention losses of faculty. The President said that this is a possibility, but the data suggest that this is not the issue.

The President discussed faculty salaries. The University was at the bottom of peer institutions and has moved to the median during President's tenure. AAU data in comparison with AAUP are useful but cannot be shared due to restrictions.

#### V. New Business and Adjourn

There being no new business, the meeting was adjourned.