

Provost's Advisory Council
Monday, December 9, 2019
8:30-10am, Lynch Center, Fulton 515

In attendance:

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|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Sharon Beckman (Chair) | Gregory Kalscheur, S.J. | David Quigley |
| Anthony Annunziato | William Keane | Catherine Read |
| Joseph Carroll | Jonathan Laurence | Tracy Regan |
| Mary Ellen Carter | John Mahoney | Ronnie Sadka |
| Thomas Chiles | Mason Marek | Akua Sarr |
| Joseph Du Pont | Allison Marshall | David Scanlon |
| Kristin Flower | Madeline McCullough | Billy Soo |
| Yonder Gillihan | Gilda Morelli | Thomas Stegman |
| Stacy Grooters | Karen Muncaster | Sasha Tomic |
| Angela Harkins | Claudia Pouravelis | Thomas Wall |
| Regine Jean Charles | | |

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1. The summary of the November 7, 2019 meeting was approved. It will be sent to the President's Office. All summaries are posted on the Provost's Office website. Members are encouraged to share them with colleagues.
 2. Proposed revisions to course evaluations: Kathy Baily, Chair of the University Council on Teaching and Billy Soo, Vice Provost for Faculty

Billy Soo began with an update on the work that the University Council on Teaching (UCT) has been doing for the past year and a half regarding course evaluations. Based on feedback from faculty and students, a UCT subcommittee was formed to review the existing course evaluation questions and online instrument.

- x Conduct a study of potential bias in the existing evaluation instrument. In speaking with peer universities, some report a slight bias based on a number of factors including gender, ethnicity, age, class size, type of class (required versus elective), etc. others report no bias. The committee recommends that the Office of Institutional Research and Planning conduct a study on whether there is bias in our evaluations.
- x Allow departments and schools to supplement questions in the survey by providing a question bank. A question bank already exists, but is not widely used. The bank would provide schools and departments with a list of well thought-out questions. They would

A council member

core, this is a good program that would benefit both BC and the common good, albeit from potential funder with a bad reputation.

Bob added that the department understands the concerns about Koch Foundation funding, but noted that in doing research, there was a surprising agreement between the Foundation's research agenda and that of the BC faculty. Accepting funding does not constitute an

contradict academic values and establishing a clear policy on gift donations from
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4. Provost's Report – David Quigley

David provided some brief updates.

- x Just over 600 students were admitted to the class of 2024 via Early Decision 1. The transition from Early Action to Early Decision has been productive, with a very strong cohort of admitted students so far.
- x The February meeting will as usual be dedicated largely to an update on University plans for budgets and construction.
- x The City of Newton this week voted to move forward with an eminent domain claim on part of the 300 Hammond Pond Parkway property.