

October 23, 2018

To: Campus Community

From: Raynard Kington, President, and Patricia Finkelman '80, Chair of the Board

Re: Fall, 2018 Board of Trustees' Meeting

The Board of Trustees had its fall meeting on campus on October 4-7, 2018. The following is a brief summary of the meeting.

Information

- *President's Report* – Currently, studying core metrics, adding qualitative measures to those with only quantitative ones. As part of our commitment to educating students, especially in civic engagement, the College will be working in conjunction with Simpson College, on the [Future is Voting Tour](#). The College continues to invest in the community of Grinnell and anticipates work on the building project at the site of the former McNally's building to begin in the spring of 2019. It is intended that there will be 7,000 square feet of retail space on ground level with 30 apartments in the stories above. Additionally, President Kington shared a progress update on the recommendations made by the Fossil Fuels and Climate Impact Task Force during the April 2018 board meeting.
- *Title IX and Implicit Bias Training* – Leslie Gregg-Jolly, Interim Chief Diversity Officer, Bailey Asberry, Title IX Coordinator and Jen Jacobsen, Assistant Dean of Students & Director of Wellness & Prevention, offered dynamic, informative and thought provoking training for the Board.
- *Accreditation* – For Grinnell and about 1,000 other colleges and universities in 19 states in the Midwestern region of the country, this is a periodic (once every 10 years for us) review by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). See [this page](#) for additional detail. A team of Grinnell College Trustees will represent the Board in this process.
- *Residential Life and Learning* – Trustee Tobi Marcus '87 and chair of Student Life and Enrollment committee, introduced the topic and the Board heard from Dean Mike Latham and Sarah Moschenross, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, about the first year student experience, participated in activities that asked them what contributed to your sense of success in college and what were the barriers to success and concluded the session with a look at specific data points comparing results from the 2015 and 2018 American College Health Association surveys. Trustee Matthew Welch '96 brought the session to conclusion with a comprehensive synthesis.

- Grinnell College Trustee **George Moose '66** and his wife **Judith R. Kaufmann** established the Program for Experiential Learning in Public Policy with an endowed gift totaling \$840,000. The board was fortunate to learn of this gift during our dinner Friday evening and we were able to express our appreciation to George at that time. The program will promote the development of ethically-informed, public minded student leaders and College graduates. Its principal purpose is to encourage students to consider careers in public service, as well as to help ensure that students can afford to participate in related career development opportunities. More information about this generous gift can be found [here](#).

Action Taken

- The Board voted to continue the College's policy of need-blind admission and meeting 100% of the financial needs of our domestic students. The Trustees will revisit these policies annually and assess again in 2021 whether to continue these commitments. Watch for an upcoming related campus announcement.
- The Board approved the audited FY18 Financial and Compliance Report.

Activities

- *New Members* – the Board welcomed five new members to their first meeting. Barry Huff '73, Kimberly Kuncel '87, Stephen G. Moyer '79, Angela Onwuachi-Willig '94 and Saumil Parikh '99. Profiles for each board member can be found [here](#). This group began their time on campus with a detailed financial orientation from President Kington.
- *Movie* - The Board and the community of Grinnell had an opportunity to view the movie [Saint's Rest](#) at the [Strand Theatre](#) in downtown Grinnell. Movie director Noga Ashkenazi '09 and her co-writer Tyson Stock '09 (*check to make sure he was there*) were in attendance and spoke to the packed theatre before and after the performance. Many of the people in the film reside in Grinnell and were in the audience for the screening.
- *Facilities Retreat* – As the board meeting concluded on Saturday afternoon, the ad-hoc facilities committee began a day retreat. They toured Burling and the Forum, discussed the concept of an Academic Commons, heard a report regarding sustainability on campus and concluded with a Q&A session. Faculty, staff, trustee members of the ad hoc facilities committee, trustee leadership, student leaders and retired trustees (Anne Spence '66 and Steve Holtze '68) were part of the retreat.
- *Board Leadership* – Prior to the start of each board meeting, the chair and vice chairs of the Board meet with their counterparts for campus. They enjoy time meeting with the executive council of the faculty and the leadership of the Student Government Association.