

GRINNELL COLLEGE



Board of Trustees
Grinnell College
Grinnell, Iowa 50112-1690

October 15, 2015

The Board of Trustees and its Committees met last Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Grinnell. The following is a brief summary of the meeting.

- 1) New Board members were oriented to the Board and its work at an afternoon orientation on Thursday;
- 2) The Board approved awarding the Bachelor of Arts degrees at mid-year to those students who successfully complete the degree requirements;
- 3) The Trustees approved the faculty-approved amendment to the Faculty Handbook and awarding an honorary degree to novelist Zadie Smith at Commencement, 2016;
- 4) The Trustees heard a building projects update from Kate Walker, Vice-President for Finance;
- 5) Many Trustees attended the 2015 Faculty Named Chair Installation Ceremony on Thursday morning, and the lunch following;
- 6) Board members participated in informal, small group conversations with students at the Thursday evening session organized by the Student Government Association. The students also sought feedback from Board members about the campus topics they might be interested in learning more about in the ensuing meetings this academic year;
- 7) Chair of the Faculty, Elaine Marzluff, reported on some highlights of the 2014-15 academic year, including the history and evolution of the curriculum's academic concentrations, as well as the hiring processes of the faculty and the recent changes to those processes;
- 8) David Cook-Martin, Associate Professor of sociology, made a presentation to the Trustees regarding the current refugee crisis in Europe and the Middle East;
- 9) The Board voted to retain the policies of need-blind admission and meeting 100% of demonstrated need for domestic students;
- 10) Members of the Board attended the art exhibition, "*Start by Asking Questions,*" in the Bucksbaum Center for the Arts with faculty members on Friday evening. The exhibition showcased art drawn from the collection of the late Trustee Vernon Faulconer, '61;
- 11) The Trustees approved the College's financials and federal audit reports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2015;

- 12) The Trustees approved resolutions related to the College's debt service, capital campaign infrastructure expenses, and a portfolio of funding reserves;
- 13) The Trustees heard a presentation from the Dean of the College, Mike Latham, the Daniel and Patricia Jipp Finkelman Dean of Careers, Life and Service, Mark Peltz, and Vice-President of Communication, Jim Reische, who described aspects of the programmatic dimensions of the College's vision and possible future investments to help build a distinctive and strong identity for Grinnell;
- 14) Members of the Board dined with members of the Student Government Association Cabinet at the President's home on Friday evening;
- 15) Trustees approved a resolution honoring the dedication and service of the late Vernon Faulconer, '61, fellow Trustee since 1984.

Patricia Finkelman '80, Chair, Board of Trustees
Raynard S. Kington, President