

**May 14, 2019**

**To: Campus Community**  
**From: Raynard Kington, President, and David Maxwell '66, Chair, Board of Trustees**  
**Re: Annual Board of Trustees' Meeting, May 2-4, 2019**

## **Information**

*PRESIDENT'S REPORT:* The President thanked the following outgoing members and meeting attendees and welcomed newcomers:

- Retiring trustees, Patricia Finkelman and Susie McCurry;
- Outgoing Alumni Council President Fritz Schwaller;
- VP for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College Mike Latham;
- Outgoing members of Executive Council, Vance Byrd, Humanities Division Chair; Ed Cohn, Social Studies Division Chair; Jin Feng, At-large Member of Executive Council;
- Congratulations to outgoing and graduating members of SGA, President Myles Becker '19, VP Academic Affairs Riley Murphy '19 and VP Student Affairs Khadijah Toumbou '19.
- Welcome to Anne Harris, incoming Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College, who officially begins her new role on July 1;
- Welcome to the incoming SGA Officers, President-Elect Regina Logan '20, VP Academic Affairs-Elect Saketan Anand '21 and VP Student Affairs-Elect Gracee Wallach '20.

*FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS:* President Kington reported on the following achievements by faculty members:

- **Leslie Gregg-Jolly** (Biology and Interim Chief Diversity Officer) received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Iowa Chapter of the American Association of University Women in recognition of her exemplary contributions toward creating a climate of gender equity in the State of Iowa.
- **Eric Ohrn** (Economics) was awarded a grant from the Russell Sage Foundation's Future of Work program for a project on the relationship between capital investment at the firm level and its impact on the labor force. He also received an Early Career Research Grant from the W. E. Upjohn Institute for this project.
- **Craig Quintero** (Theatre) won the Humanities Unbounded Visiting Faculty Fellowship at Duke University, providing him with a year-long residency there.
- **Fredo Rivera** (Art History) was awarded a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for a collaborative project between Grinnell and the Waterloo Center for the Arts, which holds one of the largest collections of Haitian art in the United States. Rivera and his colleagues will build a public research database of the collection.

*GRINNELL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP:* President Kington reported on our partnership with the public school district. He stated that we are beginning to see results indicating that the program is making a

real difference in improving literacy. The program's efforts are being recognized locally and nationally: **2016 Leave It Better Than You Found It Award** (Claude W. and Dolly Ahrens Foundation), **2018 Pacesetter Award** for outstanding alignment for measurable progress (Campaign for Grade Level Reading), **2018 Bright Spot** for inspirational solutions (Campaign for Grade Level Reading), and **2018 Council of Champions** for extraordinary individual contributions (Campaign for Grade Level Reading).

*SCARLET AND GIVE BACK DAY 2019:* The President expressed his thanks to the Board for their participation in Scarlet and Give Back Day and especially for the Trustee Challenge. In total we raised \$1,000,708 from 2,192 total donors (1,492 were from alumni). And we raised \$100,000 more (not including the challenges) than any of the previous years.

*CHAIR OF THE BOARD REPORT:* Outgoing chair Patricia Finkelman '80 commented on her service as Chair of this Board over the past four years. She expressed gratitude for the trust the Board placed in her in 2015, and for their ongoing and active support for the past 4 years. She thanked the Board vice-chairs, Trish Anderson and Dave Braman during her first term, and George Moose and Barry Thomas, followed by Michael Kahn, in this term, and additionally thanked board members who stepped up into leadership positions when asked, and those board members, as true Grinnellians, who asked hard questions and challenged the rest of us.

*STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS:* **Dean Latham** shared an overview of progress and recommendations from the Mental Health Task Force Report. These included a new, integrated student health and wellness model, the creation of a Dean of Student Health and Wellness position, a tripling of our investment in counseling and staffing, a partnership with University of Iowa doctoral students in providing counseling, an outside review of our services, and new group therapy programs as well as tele-counseling.

*QUALITATIVE RESEARCH ON RETENTION:* **Georgeanna Robinson**, Associate Director of Qualitative Research, made a presentation on student retention and the qualitative research she is conducting. Her research is providing valuable insights which will assist the College in improving resources for our students and efforts to help them thrive.

*SHARED GOVERNANCE:* **Todd Armstrong**, Chair of the Faculty and **Mike Latham** led a fictional scenario about an invited campus speaker to illuminate issues surrounding free speech and campus culture. The participants assumed varying roles at the College and discussed differing responses and courses of action.

*MARKETING AND ENROLLMENT:* **Deb Lukehart**, Vice President for Communications, and **Joe Bagnoli**, Vice President for Enrollment, discussed the College's targeted recruitment and media campaign. Overall, the campaign is going well; they described the reception of the college's messages across the country and shared various positive comments received from website and campus visitors regarding their impressions.

## **Action Taken**

- The Board reelected to another term of service trustees Shelley Floyd '72, Michael B. Kahn '74, Karen Shaff, and Joel R. Spiegel '78.

- The Board elected the following officers: Keith Archer, Treasurer; Jainen Thayer, Chief Investment Officer; and Susan Schoen, Secretary.
- The Board elected Angela Voos Assistant Secretary, and Nancy Combs Assistant Treasurer.
- The Board approved the proposed FY2020 budget.
- The Board approved the IRS Form 990 presented by the Audit and Assessment Committee.
- The faculty promotion and tenure personnel decisions listed below as recommended by the Academic Affairs Committee were approved by the Board.

Professor with Tenure

Tamara Beauboeuf-Lafontant, Louise R. Noun Chair in Women's Studies (Granted tenure at the rank of Professor)

Associate Professor with Tenure

Gwenola Caradec, French and Arabic (Granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor)

Xavier Escandell, Anthropology (Granted tenure as an Associate Professor)

John Garrison, English (Granted tenure as an Associate Professor)

Andrew Graham, Chemistry (Granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor)

Cynthia Hansen, Linguistics and Anthropology (Granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor)

Celeste Miller, Theatre and Dance (Granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor)

- The Board approved the minutes from the past meetings and the awarding of Bachelor of Arts degrees to eligible students at Commencement 2019.
- The board approved a motion to suspend discussions related to union expansion; the Board Chair's statement can be found here: <https://www.grinnell.edu/campus-life/conversations/unionization/communication>
- The announcement regarding the Board's newly-elected Chair, David Maxwell '66, is found here: <https://www.grinnell.edu/news/special-campus-memo-board-trustees-leadership-transition>

## **Activities**

*Drake Book Release:* A celebratory event featuring President Emeritus George Drake's recently released book on Joe Rosenfield '25 was held on Wednesday evening before the Board meeting. Many Trustees were able to be able to attend and they enjoyed **Professor Drake's** talk about his new book, Mentor: Life and Legacy of Joe Rosenfield '25.

*Honoring Mike Latham:* **Angela Voos, Raynard Kington** and **Matthew Welch**, offered remarks honoring **Mike Latham** at dinner on Thursday evening as he prepares to become the next president of Punahou School in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Welch, chair of the Academic Affairs committee, thanked Latham by saying, "through his leadership and guidance, Mike has helped create and strengthen a community of

thinkers and doers at Grinnell — people equipped with unique skills and resources needed to change our world.”

*Honoring Outgoing Members:* On Friday night the board honored **Susie Holden McCurry '71** and **Patricia Jipp Finkelman '80** for their service to the board. McCurry and Finkelman were honored through thoughtful remarks, a gift from the College and toasts made on their behalf. McCurry retires from 16 years of service and Finkelman served for 21 years, four of those as chair of the board.

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