This year, the Advisory Committee was rarely called upon to meet with President Crutchfield, although a meeting is scheduled after the writing of this report. The Committee nevertheless met several times over the course of the year, and had a representative at all AAUP meetings.

Although the Committee was not given any specific charge, we met periodically to be proactive in providing ideas to help the College improve its finances while also addressing the poor morale on campus. The latter point was one of the Committee’s main objectives at the start of the year.

Some of the major and, we think, feasible ideas the Committee generated include the following. Note that these are only preliminary; of course, all ideas must be vetted through appropriate committees (e.g., Ed Pol) and faculty meetings.

- **Create a true “Winter Term.”**
  The idea is to use the long winter break to offer a full schedule of half-credit courses taught by Wheaton faculty. This would afford faculty a chance to offer courses that do not fit into a program’s regular course structure while receiving a stipend. Students, especially those from distant countries, would be able to stay on campus, gain credit, and have the opportunity to take courses not generally offered. This idea generated much excitement, and Advisory, the Faculty Planning and Priorities Committee (FPPC), and Brian Douglas are exploring the feasibility of such a program.

- **Focus more on academics and less on the student experience.**
  The Committee hopes that more resources will be shifted from some programs that address the student experience to those that are clearly academic. This was well-received by the FPPC. Advisory has been asked to offer more specific suggestions.

- **Offer a “three-year” option.**
  This idea is in the very preliminary stages, but this plan would offer students the option of finishing their Wheaton degree in three years. The hope is that more high-end students might choose Wheaton because they could finish their degree program faster than at other institutions.

- **Put more emphasis on internships.**
  With parents and students looking for “more bang for the buck” and real-world experience, internships are more important than ever. With Wheaton’s history with the Filene Center, it should be relatively easy to increase participation in internships. As this is part of the Focus Plan, there are ongoing discussions with the Filene Center and the Provost to determine how best to proceed.

We encourage all faculty to weigh in on these ideas and to offer additional suggestions.

Respectfully submitted for the Advisory Committee,

Michael Gousie, Chair