Advisory Committee  
Academic Year 2013-2014

Members: Phoebe Chan, Touba Ghadessi (chair), Nancy Kendrick, Tommy Ratliff, Kersti Yllo

The Advisory Committee met with President Crutcher at his request on a monthly basis throughout the academic year. The committee also met separately after all these meetings, during several occasions throughout the year, and with other committees and constituencies such as CoCA and the Presidential Search Committee. Additionally, the committee was asked to provide recommendations on various institutional decisions brought forth by the Provost, by programs, and by individual faculty.

The committee's concerns followed in the line set the previous year. Indeed, the committee addressed the effectiveness of various strategies for increasing revenue for the College; the position of Wheaton in an ever changing higher education landscape, the incoming President; and budgetary decisions taken by the College.

The committee discussed revenue-increasing strategies that have been implemented successfully (such as the business major and the EXPLO program), those that are still underway, and those that have not come to fruition. In those discussions, the committee members questioned budget divisions and allocations. They also suggested all faculty members be briefed on the expectations of the administration.

The committee proposed a more direct and frequent interaction between faculty and the board of trustees. While some structures for interactions were being shaped, they did not take place.

Additionally, the committee continued to address issues such as retention, financial aid, career services, international students’ place at Wheaton, and faculty salaries. Embedded in these connected issues, the committee was presented with the inception of a new comparison group, with the possibility for internship credit, and with the role of faculty in the implementation of the College’s strategies.

In an effort to re-emphasize the charge of the Advisory Committee (as it is written in faculty legislation), the committee felt it necessary to not merely serve as a receptacle for information, but rather to have an active role in suggesting ideas regarding the welfare of the College, gathered from the faculty that have elected the committee members. This election may soon occur as an open ballot to select the finalists for the committee.

With the incoming President’s arrival, the Advisory Committee plans on continuing these discussions and assessing its charge in a more direct manner.

Respectfully submitted,  
Touba Ghadessi, on behalf of the Advisory Committee Members