Advisory Committee
Academic Year 2015-2016

Members: Matt Gingo, Ellen McBreen, Héctor Medina (Chair), Tommy Ratliff and Brenda Wyss. In Spring 2016: Phoebe Chan and Winter Werner substituted for Matt Gingo and Ellen McBreen that were on leave.

The Advisory Committee met 11 times during the 2015-2016 academic year.

These included monthly meetings with President Hanno, participating in the Board of Trustees Meeting in February 2016, and also participating in two special meetings in September 2015: the first one with President Hanno, Provost Eisenmann and the Provost's Advisory Committee; and the second jointly with the Educational Policy Committee and the Provost's Advisory Committee.

Our committee continues to strongly endorse more direct and regular interaction between faculty and the Board of Trustees, and this year again two events were planned by the committee with President Hanno for the February Board meeting: a set of five “table talk” sessions where faculty discussed their work with small groups of trustees, and a reception open to all faculty and trustees. For the second year in a row we received very positive feedback from the trustees regarding these events.

Regarding the special meetings, in the first one, some issues of common interest for the two committees were discussed, and specifically the potential curricular review was considered. In the second meeting, both the Provost's Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee were invited by the Educational Policy Committee "to brainstorm ideas about and questions concerning a potential curricular review". (See the minutes of the Educational Policy Committee Meeting held on September 29, 2015.)

Furthermore, some of the members of the Advisory Committee also assisted in one of the searches for Vice-president in the fall semester. In the spring semester the committee enjoyed dinner with Professor Hawkins during her visit in April.

Some of the items discussed in the regular monthly meetings this year included: Curriculum review; Provost search process; Strategic plan; Wheaton Library and Information Services; Our response to the hate speech incident; Plans for Professor Hawkins visit in April; Reception for retiring faculty; Onboarding of the new Provost; Campus planning process; Marketing study of prospective students and parents; Faculty salary discussion; The size and quality of the incoming class, and the discount rate.

Respectfully submitted,
Héctor Medina, on behalf of the Advisory Committee Members