



Boston College Chapter
American Association of University Professors
BCAAUP.org

February 2014

In our last update to faculty, we reported on the fall meeting with the Interim Provost and the Vice-Provost at which time members of the BCAAUP Executive Board respectfully requested official recognition of our advocacy chapter in conjunction with funding, an opportunity to meet with new faculty, or at least receive a list of names, and the establishment of a standing Faculty Committee for the Faculty Handbook with the firm belief that doing so would be a way to respond to the faculty's interest in shared governance between administrators and faculty.

As a result of our meeting which included discussion of the Faculty Survey Report and the petition for the university-wide senate and a faculty standing committee for the Faculty Handbook, we began to prepare a proposal for a faculty committee for the Faculty Handbook and considered agreement for such a proposal as an important step in working with the administration for improved faculty governance.

Although at the fall meeting, the administration seemed open to bringing this topic back to PAC for reconsideration, since that time the administration has changed its position with respect to the value of a faculty committee for the Handbook and has also questioned the role of our advocacy chapter. In on-going communication with the administration, the Board clearly stated that this was not an attempt to challenge the Interim Provost's authority or the views of the Vice-Provost. As an advocacy chapter, BCAAUP has a responsibility to represent and present concerns of the faculty to the administration, basing this information on the data we have gathered since first establishing an advocacy chapter. BCAAUP remains committed to the belief that faculty at Boston College have a responsibility to engage with the administration for the greater good of the university and for higher education, as do faculty at so many other colleges and universities across the country, including other Jesuit and Catholic universities.

We had hoped that there would be some changes in perspective and approach toward faculty governance during this interim year, as the university search continues for a new Provost; however the process has been complicated and there have been delays. At the end of semester meeting in December, the BCAAUP Executive Board renewed its commitment to responding to the concerns of the faculty, including benefits, issues facing retired faculty and non-tenure track

faculty, and continued work on the petition for the university Senate and faculty committee for the Handbook.

On February 7, the administration offered to add the topic of a faculty committee for the Handbook to the February PAC meeting with a commitment to devote more time to this important issue at the March PAC meeting. We urge all of our colleagues to review the relevance of a standing faculty committee so as to have a *real* Faculty Handbook, and to contact faculty representatives on the Provost Advisory Council and ask that representatives voice support for this critical aspect of faculty governance. We will soon be posting more information on our bcaaup website and thank you in advance for helping get the information out to all faculty. As we await the decision on a new Provost, we reaffirm our belief in faculty governance and in our faculty to take a more active role, based on your responses to the Faculty Survey:

Sixty-Nine percent of respondents favor the establishment of a Faculty Senate. Only 7% of respondents opposed it. If a Senate were established, 41% of respondents indicated a willingness to serve as a representation of their department or school.

The most significant finding concerning the Faculty Handbook was a consensus (86% of respondents) that an elected faculty committee should explain, evaluate, and publicize all proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook prior to posting. Faculty leadership should collaborate with the administration to plan this initiative.

Our next BCAAUP meeting for all faculty, graduate students and retired faculty, will take place in late March (date, time, location to be announced). The focus will be on benefits for all faculty and we will have some guest speakers (AAUP colleagues from other Boston universities to address the ways in which faculty can become more actively involved in governance).

We are grateful to all of our colleagues who have offered to participate in these important endeavors and hope that many more will respond to the challenges. If you would like to be a candidate for the A&S Senate election, or would be interested in serving on the Faculty Committee for the Faculty Handbook, or serving on the BCAAUP Executive Board, please contact any of our Board members. Elections for the BCAAUP Executive Board will be held in the fall. Please consider joining (for more info: aaup.org and <http://bcaaup.org/>).

With appreciation, The BCAAUP Executive Board

Susan Michalczyk
Marilynn Johnson
Hiroshi Nakazato
Michael Malec
Betty Blythe
Michael Resler
Mary Troxell