

Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of February 27, 2014 meeting

James Bretzke, S.J., Chair
Lillie Albert
Mark Brodin
Daniel Chambers
Pat DeLeeuw
Bill Duffey
Can Erbil
Samuel Graves
Katherine Gregory

Don Hafner
Joseph Jiang, S.J.
Maureen Kenny
Narintohn Luangrath
Susan Michalczyk
Katie O'Dair
Laura O'Dwyer
Theresa O'Keefe

Google Apps for Education

The University is preparing for a possible transition from the current Microsoft Exchange email and calendaring system to Google Apps for Education. Student accounts were migrated to Google two years ago. Now, ITS is planning for a migration of all university faculty and staff, to take place by June 2014.

- x It was explained several considerations support a move to Google Apps: faculty and students using the new Canvas LMS would be able to collaborate within Google Docs; file sharing on Google Drive has stronger protections than other cloud services such as Dropbox, which some faculty currently use; the email quality will be significantly greater on Google Apps than it is on Microsoft Exchange.
 - x Google Apps has capabilities for calendaring which are different from what is available under Microsoft Exchange and Outlook. Several administrative offices have raised concerns about the differences. ITS is committed to working with offices to maximize the likelihood of a seamless transition.
 - x ITS has met with departmental contacts to communicate the impending transition, and is now meeting with individual offices to answer questions and anticipate concerns.
 - x For technical reasons, it will not be possible to link personal and BC Gmail accounts. However, there are solutions that afford their existence.
 - x More than 70 other major universities have moved to Google Apps for Education, and BC will draw upon their experience in making its own transition.
3. Paul Chebator, Dean of Students, joined the Council to discuss services to students with disabilities. He noted that over time, the number of students with disabilities at Boston College has risen. In addition, providing services for students with disabilities has become more complex; for example, food allergies, latex allergies, and gluten allergies have increased significantly, and require accommodations in a number of ways across campus. He also observed that students with disabilities as well as their families have reported that the support structures for disability services at BC can be confusing and difficult to navigate.

Some recommendations for disability services at Boston College have been articulated including the creation of a comprehensive strategic plan for disability services and establishment of policies and guidelines for standards of accessibility for students.

- x It was noted that it would be preferable to consolidate and centralize requests for accommodations, at dd1-6(i)-6(t)-16(y)16(s)-15(er)-1(v)-4(i)-16(ces)-5(an)5 Td ()Tj EM10(t)-2

digitizing the entire book.

- x In general, BC needs to be more proactive in anticipating and providing for disability needs, and not wait for those students with disabilities to press their case.
4. Professor Susan Michalczyk raised the topic of the Faculty Handbook. Currently, the Provost's Office has a webpage subtitled "Faculty Handbook" on which policies and procedures pertaining to faculty are posted. Professor Michalczyk proposed that Boston College should have a standing faculty committee which would be responsible for reviewing and producing a printed Faculty Handbook.

The topic will be discussed at greater length during the March meeting of the Provost's Advisory Council.

5. Provost's Report

- x Joe Quinn reported that while the outlook for admissions is positive, Boston College (other colleges and universities) is seeing the impact of the decline in the high school population. Overall, the applicant pool this year is about 5% lower than last year. The applicant pool for the College of Arts and Sciences is down 10% while undergraduate applications to the Carroll School, the Connell School, and the Lynch School have increased. Other developments include a 9% decline in the number of students indicating they intended to file for financial aid, which might signal an improvement in the economy. Over 23,000 applications were submitted for the current cycle.
- x Joe Quinn announced that beginning in the Fall 2014 semester, students taking Semester Online courses will be responsible for half of the costs (financial aid students will be responsible for 1/4 of the costs).
- x Don Hafner distributed graphs illustrating grading trends since 1978. The topic of grade compression will be discussed at the upcoming Faculty Forum.