

President's Council  
Thursday, July 8, 2020  
Dewey – 1867 Room  
12:30-4:00 p.m.

Present: Murphy, Regan, Eastman, Cavanagh, Farara, Howrigan, Shaw, Bergh, Whitmore, Warden, Stewart

Off on vacation: Bouton, Scott

1. JSC 2010-2015: A Plan for Access, Engagement & Success –

We considered the Plan and asked what it needs to move from “DRAFT” to full-fledged status. Barbara showed a couple of changes she had made after meeting with Ellen Hill (civic engagement priority).

We had a discussion about priorities 1 and 2; these are the areas on which a summer working group of faculty has met. The group is largely supportive of the plan as a whole and endorses its core aims. Questions and request for clarification center on “what makes a program a signature program?” and the associated concern: what if a program is not thought of in this way? Is it at risk for losing resources, for example?

Dan pointed out that nowhere is there mention in the plan –as there is in some plans— of reducing majors in order to support or ‘raise’ other majors.

Barbara shared her thoughts on what makes a program a ‘signature’ program :

- Positive reputational association (e.g. JSC as ‘the’ arts college)
- Potential to draw students to us by a combination of uniqueness, strength, faculty productivity/accomplishments
- Exciting or regularly suffused with new approaches
- Resonance in the broader community (state, national, beyond)
- A program not easily found somewhere else and in demand

Dan (and Barbara if she can), Tyrone and other summer faculty members working on the plan will meet within a few weeks to collaborate on remaining questions and needed clarification. We will make adjustments to Year 1 work plan/projects if needed. Neither Tyrone nor Dan (nor other members) believe that the very good questions and comments by faculty should be reason to slow down the plan’s opening this Fall; rather, we should keep working toward common directions.

Still to do: design a ‘launch’.

Barbara will ask consult with Deb to get her ideas for presentation.  
Barbara will mention the Plan in her opening convocation remarks (recognizing that this is not of key interest to entering students and shouldn’t be an area of focus for that event).

**To consider: series of open meetings? An organized and scheduled series of smaller meetings by department?**

2. New faculty members: Barbara reminded group of five entering faculty members and what an exciting opportunity this is for any college, but especially one with a small faculty like ours. New members are:

Kathleen Brinegar – Middle Level Education  
Sean Clute – Digital Arts  
Jacob Lane – Visiting Prof. In Writing/Literature  
Perry LaRocque – Special Education  
Bethany Plissey – Music –focus on choral and voice

They are a highly talented group of people; Tyrone served on two of the searches and agrees wholeheartedly. All will be part of a new faculty orientation, offered faculty mentors, and widely introduced.

**Deb will work up press releases and organize portrait photographs as soon as she can.**

3. McClelland Hall /Closing of CDC

With the closing of our child development center, new space becomes available on lower level of McClelland. Barbara invited suggestions for use of the space and has received a hand full of ideas to date.

A recurring suggestion—if not in the lower level space, then somewhere in the building—is the need to add gathering space for students, many of whom spend a fair amount of time in McClelland. (suggestions: lounge, food options, open computer work space).

Please keep ideas coming.

4. Grants and External Funding Requests:

JSC is a partner (with CCV ) in a funding request from Lumina (may also turn into a request to FIPSE) for a three year grant to reach out to students who have earned the majority of credits toward their degrees (90+ for JSC; 45+ for CCV) and encourage them to return to college to complete their degrees.

A second FIPSE proposal is being drafted by Evan and Dan and echoes an earmark request that is in Senator Leahy's office to augment our non-campus-based teacher preparation efforts.

Les Kanat and a small group are working on a request to NSF to provide scholarship support and other supports to students to pursue studies in the sciences. The draft proposal is circulating among readers and letters of support are coming in.

5. Bonding authority approved by VSC Board of Trustees

JSC has been granted approval to borrow \$4.5 million. We will split the money (roughly) between Bentley and Visual Arts Center. We will be continuing the Bentley renovations – touching every lab and adding two more! As well as classroom upgrades, improved faculty offices, a new seminar space.

For VAC: we will renovate as much present office and studio space as possible and add a ~5000sf addition. The VAC project is currently in the beginning stages with an architect from Freeman French Freeman consulting for the early design phase. Both projects will be going out to bid.

6. NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges)

We are in year five of a ten-year accreditation cycle; our fifth year report is due in mid-August. In addition to a brief response to all 11 standards, we will have specific areas to address.

These focus primarily on planning, linking planning to resource decisions and use of outcomes to inform both planning and resource decisions.

Our newly written and about to be launched five-year plan positions us very well to write our report as does the VSC academic program review process (Policy 101), completion of a successful five-year Title III project, successful financial audits and careful facilities planning.

We adjourned at around 4pm.