

## BOARD REPORT on NOVEMBER 10-12, 2016 MEETINGS

The Sweet Briar College Board of Directors met on campus last Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Thursday was spent in committee meetings, ending with a casual dinner at the Harriet Howell Rogers Riding Center. The location for board meals and receptions varies from meeting to meeting to give the board an opportunity to see and learn more about the College's facilities. Riding director Mimi Wroten gave the board a brief description of the facilities during the dinner. Friday, the board spent the entire day in meetings, after which they attended a dinner at Sweet Briar House. The board continued its business meetings Saturday, adjourning shortly after 11 am.

Board actions and items of note included the following:

- **Financial audit** – The board approved the financial audit for the 2016 fiscal year (ending June 30, 2016) performed by BDO, an international auditing company. The audit disclosed no material weaknesses and was a “clean opinion.” In addition to the fact that none of the College's endowment had been spent, the audit showed a surplus, for the first time in many years.
- **Enrollment update** – A representative of the company providing the Capture software program for recruiting students appeared via Zoom to describe how the program works. Bill Allen, vice president for enrollment, explained how the software is being used for admissions. He also provided information about Slate, a customer relations management (CRM) program that has been acquired to support admissions.
- **Board governance** – The board reports that:
  - It met both in the Governance Committee and in full at a Friday morning breakfast with representative members of the faculty to continue the discussion of governance issues.
  - The board approved editorial changes to the bylaws proposed by the Governance Committee, led by board vice chair, Georgene Vairo.
- **Engineering and computer science news** – The board was informed that:
  - ABET, the professional group that accredits our engineering program, had just completed its campus visit in connection with its accreditation review. While the final report will not be known for several weeks, the comments of the visiting committee were extremely positive. We anticipate no difficulty continuing our accreditation.
  - Google will be one of our sponsors for Sweet Briar's participation in National Engineering Week in February. This follows three visits to Google and other

Silicon Valley companies by President Stone and Vice President Mary Pope Hutson.

- A report was made on progress toward reviving and strengthening the computer science program. Authorization for the program from the accrediting body is pending. Meanwhile, students are enrolling in significant numbers in the existing computer science classes and planning continues for the more robust program.
- **Congratulations** – The board acknowledged and congratulated Dr. Jim Kirkwood for receiving the 2016 H. Hiter Harris, Jr. Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award from the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges.
- **Presidential search update** – The board received a briefing on the status of the search for the new president. Search committee chair and board chair Teresa Pike Tomlinson reported that the committee is working extremely well together, is assisted by a particularly able consultant and is on course to complete its work by the April board meeting. She observed that the committee was delighted to have had so many outstanding applicants.
- **Changes to the board of directors** – The board accepted with regret and deep appreciation for their service the resignations of members Ben Howerton and Martha Fruehauf. Both resigned for personal reasons. Board members Kelley Fitzpatrick and Frank Roach were elected to the Executive Committee.
- **Alumnae relations and development** – Mary Pope Hutson, VP for alumnae relations and development, reviewed plans and strategy for raising the \$20 million in gifts targeted for the current academic year. Priscilla Carroll, recently appointed director of alumnae relations, was introduced to the board.
- **Guest speaker** – Lynn Rainville, director of the College’s Tusculum Institute, made a presentation to the board on the history of the College, titled “Sense of Place.”