

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, FEBRUARY 23-25, 2017

At its regularly scheduled meeting on campus February 23-25, the Board of Directors considered and acted on the following matters:

- The board heard a report from Capture, the enrollment consulting group assisting the College with its admissions efforts. The consultants explained that rather than pursuing ever-larger numbers of applications, many of which have no potential for yielding students, the company is helping us develop a pool of applicants more likely to be interested in Sweet Briar College. A more selective pool will allow the admissions staff and alumnae volunteers to focus on the students most likely to enroll.
- Bill Allen, VP for enrollment management, reported on admissions, noting that it is too early to predict the size of the new class, but he was pleased that deposits are slightly ahead of last year and consistent with several earlier years. He expressed appreciation for the assistance of alumnae in calling and recruiting students.
- Lipman Hearne, a national communications group assisting the College, presented its preliminary report on "re-branding," an effort to help the College become more effective, coherent and consistent in the way it presents itself to alumnae, prospective students and others. The final proposal is expected at the April meeting.
- The entire faculty was invited to meet with the board over breakfast Thursday morning. The Faculty Executive Committee made a presentation on salaries and changes in the College's rank in salaries compared to other schools. The FEC noted that the presentation was meant to inform the board ahead of future discussions regarding compensation. It was noted that while the presentation focused on faculty salaries, compensation for staff also needs attention.
- The leadership of the Student Government Association appeared before the board to talk about their activities, especially some of the constitutional and structural changes made this year. The board expressed its appreciation for the mature and thoughtful work of the students.
- The Town of Amherst graciously hosted the board and area civic and governmental representatives from the area at Second Stage.
- Tim Klocko, VP for finance, reported that the College's expenses for the year remain under budget. He predicted that the College might come in as much as 10 percent under budget by the end of the year. Klocko also sketched out some of the preliminary budget planning for next year. A tentative budget will be presented to the board at its April meeting.

- Following the administration's recommendation, which was endorsed by the Finance Committee, the board agreed to retain BDO as the College's independent auditors for the coming year.
- The board reviewed the endowment investment returns, noting a nice increase in market value in the past couple of months.
- The Alumnae Alliance Council Board, led by co-chairs Debra Elkins and Sarah von Rosenberg, made a presentation on its work. Among the highlights were:
 - The AAC has developed a network of alumnae offering to assist current students to find jobs. More than a dozen positions per student have been generated! The AAC is also actively assisting with internships.
 - It was estimated that gifts-in-kind to the College by alumnae in the form of workdays, assisting with admissions and other activities, represented a value of at least \$13 million, based on conservative compensation assumptions.
 - The College should find ways to ensure continued alumnae engagement.
 - The board and administration are encouraged to continue transparent and cohesive communications with alumnae and the broader community, and strengthen communication wherever possible.
- The board had dinner in Pannell Gallery and enjoyed the ambience of some of the College's most prized art pieces (incl. Rembrandt and Dürer etchings!), as well as memorabilia from Indiana Williams' family (including a lock of Daisy's hair) and early artifacts of the College.
- The board elected Caville Stanbury '06 of Silver Spring, Md., to the board. Caville is an engineer with a distinguished career focused on hydraulic engineering.
- The board accepted with regret and appreciation the resignation from the board of Kenton McCarty. McCarty has been a valuable member of the board. He had indicated at the outset that his term would be limited.
- The board adopted resolutions of congratulations and respect for several faculty members who were recent recipients of noteworthy awards:
 - Dr. Jim Kirkwood, professor of mathematical sciences and Cameron Fellow, was the recipient of the 2016 H. Hiter Harris, Jr. Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award from the Virginia Foundation of Independent Colleges, a consortium of 15 independent Virginia colleges. Last year, the State Council of Higher Education recognized Kirkwood as one of Virginia's Outstanding Faculty.

- Dr. Lincoln Brower, research professor of biology, was awarded the fourth annual E.O. Wilson Award for Outstanding Science in Biodiversity by the Center for Biological Diversity for a career-long devotion to research and his passionate advocacy for the protection of the monarch butterfly and other species.
- John Gregory Brown, Julia Jackson Nichols Professor of English, director of creative writing and Cameron Fellow, was the recipient of an Outstanding Faculty Award by the State Council for Higher Education. Brown was one of 12 recipients, and one of just two professors from a small college.
- At the conclusion of the meetings, board chair Teresa Pike Tomlinson and President Phil Stone hosted a town hall meeting. The livestreamed session was attended by dozens of community members.
- The board's next regularly scheduled meeting is April 20-22.