

**Provost's Advisory Council
Summary of October 24, 2013 meeting**

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3. Pat DeLeeuw discussed preparations for the new Center for Teaching Excellence, which will open in September of 2014. Plans call for a visible, centrally-located place situated on the second floor of O'Neill Library. The Center will complement and supplement activities supporting teaching that are already in place in each of the schools.
 - A Director for the Center will be hired; it is hoped that this individual will bring key concepts about student formation to the Center's approach to supporting teaching activities. Some Faculty Fellows may be appointed as Master Teachers at the Center.
 - A question was asked about the public computer facility in the Library, as its space will be allocated to create the Center. It was explained that computers are now distributed throughout the Library, and that the Library has a laptop lending program.
 - It was noted that the new Center will be part of the teaching and research commons on the second floor of O'Neill; the third floor is a learning commons. Longer-term plans will see the creation of a digital production library.
 - A member of the Council asked how faculty who might benefit from teaching support are identified. Currently, faculty tend to be self-referred, or referred by deans and/or department chairs. At the moment there are no plans to require new faculty to participate in programs at the new Center, although participation will be encouraged.
 - It was proposed that programs that help faculty integrate their teaching and research would be particularly valuable additions to the activities of the Center, so that good research can enhance teaching.
 - It was noted that that the Center will focus on support and enhancement throughout the career cycle, not just remedial activities.
 - Additional suggestions for programming included: including part-time and non-tenure-track faculty in the Center's scope; and supporting faculty in graduate and undergraduate thesis direction.

4. Provost's Report
 - The Boston Redevelopment Authority has finally approved the 2150 Commonwealth Avenue residence hall project, where More Hall currently sits. The University's Institutional Master Plan calls for the creation of this residence hall and the conversion of 2000 Commonwealth Avenue to undergraduate housing, which will allow for the razing of Edmonds Hall and the construction of a recreation complex in that location. After that, the Flynn Recreation Complex will become the site of a new University center.
 - As has been reported in various media outlets, the newest version of the Common Application, released this year, has had many technical problems. Some Boston-area schools have pushed back the application deadline; BC decided not to do so.
 - There was a brief update about Semester Online. The advising period for Spring term course registration has begun. Students are encouraged to discuss their interest in a Semester Online course with their advisors.