

**Provost's Advisory Council  
Thursday, February 11, 2021  
8:30-10:00 a.m. - Zoom**



university well through major financial turmoil. Planning is done with a view of maintaining and improving the academic position and profile of the University through investments in academics, student formation, and infrastructure. The commitment to meeting full demonstrated financial need of undergraduate students remains a priority. The goal is to build a competitive and stable base, through disciplined planning and careful stewardship of resources, and to pass along a healthy financial outlook for future generations.

The key drivers include tuition growth, endowment return, new debt/capital, fundraising, and operational efficiencies and cost management. For new buildings, there is an assumed 10% (of project cost) operational impact once the building opens.

The University maintains a strong financial position and will continue to invest in initiatives identified in the Strategic Plan, most notably the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society. The goal is to advance priorities and align investments with current and anticipated resources.

A council member asked how other local schools have experienced the pandemic, and how they are planning for the future.

John responded that many schools, like BC, are looking to create capacity in the operating budget for more strategic use of funds, and for opportunities to redirect funds. Travel budgets, for example, which are mostly not being used due to the pandemic, provide a good opportunity for moving resources to strategic reserves.

Michael Lochhead provided updates on recently completed, existing, and upcoming Major Capital Projects. When the pandemic hit, the University paused \$45M in spending for capital projects. Many of the paused projects will be phased back in for FY22 or beyond.

Completed construction projects include:

- Bapst Library Phase 1: This was primarily repair and restoration of the south elevation, focusing on masonry repairs, terra cotta roof replacement, and stained glass repair and restoration. Phase 2 will cover the west and north elevations.
- Lower Campus Lawn: The space, which is the site of the former Flynn Recreation Complex, is being targeted, long term, for an administrative or university center. In the interim, the goal was to create a space that would benefit the campus. The space includes a large lawn, new tennis and basketball courts, and parking. There are large storm water retention tanks under the parking lot to help with flooding issues on lower campus.
- Harrington Athletics Village, Phase II –

weeks behind schedule due to a nine-week construction shut down because of Covid last spring.

Projects under construction include:

- The Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society: The Schiller Institute, a 157k square foot facility, is the largest project currently under construction. The building will include space for 22 PIs, classrooms to replace those previously housed in Cushing Hall, maker space, a clean room, a café, as well as the Shea Center for Entrepreneurship and the Computer Science Department. Construction started in 2019 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2021 with the building ready for occupancy by January 2022. The project was deemed essential construction and as such was not impacted by COVID.
- Pine Manor Campus: The Pine Manor campus facilities include academic buildings, residence halls, a campus center, and some recreational fields. BC has been leasing all of the beds on campus, using the East Village for isolation housing and the West Village for quarantine housing. BC has been heavily involved in helping Pine Manor open for on-campus instruction for the spring semester.

Future projects include:

- Pine Manor Campus: There will be a focus on capital renewal to bring facilities up to speed for full utilization. The Capital Plan will include annual investment in the campus.
- Lower Campus Planning, including undergraduate housing, academic and student support space, and University Center projects.
- Other projects for discussion include library storage, student formation space, campus renewals, and athletics spaces.

### **3. Updates from Student Affairs: Michael Lochhead, Executive Vice President and Acting Vice President for Student Affairs**

Mike provided updates on Residential Life, Health and Wellness, Student Engagement and Support, and the Pine Manor Integration.

#### Residential Life

There have been recent incidents in Xavier Hall within the Multicultural Living and Learning Community. In speaking with students, there were similar incidents in the past that went unreported. The focus is on student safety, and staff from residential life, campus ministry, and the Bowman AHANA and Intercultural Center have been in touch, offering support and solidarity. Conduct violations are being pursued for those who are responsible.

BC continues to maintain quarantine and isolation facilities at Hotel Boston in Brighton as well as at Pine Manor College and the Newton Four Points Sheraton. Short-term quarantine space is available in the Cabaret Room in Vanderslice Hall for symptomatic students

awaiting test results. Students who are in quarantine or isolation housing receive support from a number of departments on campus. Due to revised federal guidance, the quarantine period has been shortened and students can be released within eight days if they have a negative test result on day five or six of quarantine.

Health and Wellness

Testing for returning students and the full BC community started on January 19, 2021 and pivoted to ongoing surveillance testing starting February 1, 2021. Symptomatic testing will continue throughout the semester through the Higgins lab and Health Services. At the start of the semester, there was an increased number of cases that was likely the result of a lack of adherence to mask wearing and social distancing. Students have been reminded of conduct expectations and will be required to attend mandatory conduct conversations.

Counseling services have seen fewer students engage in traditional therapy, and counselors have been able to see students needing TJ 0.07Tg Q2(r)3(e)4(nt)(y)204( f)n reudentlynd wit ighedite 1 d



Historically, when a faculty member received an external scholarship or fellowship that paid a stipend that did not cover the faculty member's full salary and benefits, BC would cover the difference. The number of these requests has grown over the years and as the University does not have an official policy, they are often handled in an ad hoc manner. The policy would put in place standard guidelines and allow for increased transparency.

In reviewing how peer schools handle these situations, many schools have a list of specific fellowships or scholarships that are eligible for a salary top-off. Faculty are generally encouraged to coordinate the leave with a planned sabbatical and are required to return for at least a year of service following the leave. Additionally, most policies have a financial cap on the top-off.

The proposed BC policy serves to encourage faculty to apply for and accept prestigious awards. Faculty are encouraged to time the required leave with a planned sabbatical or faculty fellowship. This maximizes the likelihood of maintaining their full salary and benefits over the period. Additional conditions of the policy include:

- The fellowship or scholarship must be prestigious, competitive, and awarded through a rigorous selection process. A sample list of the types of awards will be provided, and if uncertain, a faculty member should discuss the award with their department chair and dean.
- The amount of the top-off is limited to the *smaller* of (i) \$50,000 or (ii) the amount that would top-off the award to equal 100% of the faculty member's salary during the period of the fellowship or scholarship.
- Faculty may avail of top-offs onl aw-tt