

Faculty Advisory Board. Annual report, April 16, 2006

The FAB met in the Fall to discuss the role of the committee in the evaluation of senior faculty and in the interview process for hiring. We rewrote the description of our mandate to clarify our role and to further distinguish our activities from those of the Executive Committee.

In the fall we tried to schedule a meeting with Bob Sternberg, Dean of Arts and Sciences, to discuss with him the role of our committee in the hiring process of new deans but were unable to secure a date. By the time it was possible in late January, the committee membership had declined from five to three between Gib Metcalf's sabbatical and Vickie Sullivan becoming an Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts & Sciences and a meeting was not held.

As chair of the FAB, at the request of the Dean of A+S, I interviewed one candidate for the position of Executive Administrative Dean for Arts & Sciences. Similarly, I was asked to interview two candidates for the position of Dean of Academic Affairs for Arts and Sciences. Further, I was asked to be on the search committee for the Dean of the Graduate School.

An issue remains for the committee to discuss next year whether the chair of the committee actually represents the committee as a whole when the issues that are brought up in a search are confidential and cannot be shared with the other members of the committee. This matter was discussed in a second meeting of the FAB.

This spring we met with the Executive Committee and Bernard Harleston of the Board of Trustees regarding the evaluation of President Bacow after five years of service. We decided it was best done by the two committees together. We made suggestions of how such an evaluation might be carried out in short order in order to reach as many constituencies of the School of Arts and Sciences to arrive at a fair representation.

In mid April we met again with the Executive Committe, Trustees Harleston and Barsam and they questioned us on various points to arrive at our assessment of the president.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Wechsler
Chair, Faculty Advisory Board
NEH Professor, Department of Art and Art History