The Experimental College
Annual Report, 2012–13

**ExCollege Mission Statement:** Through its innovative, interactive, and interdisciplinary programs, the ExCollege strives to enrich the intellectual experience of undergraduates at Tufts. These programs serve as an incubator for new ideas about teaching, learning, and curriculum. They also aim to engage students actively in the design and delivery of new academic initiatives, often in collaboration with faculty. Shared governance, collaborative learning, and involvement with the community are hallmarks of the ExCollege.

**Faculty / Student Board:** The board of the Experimental College (ExCollege) is charged with responsibility of selecting courses to be offered each semester, of identifying functions for the ExCollege to support, of selecting undergraduate board members, and of supporting the ExCollege’s mission statement.

**Faculty Chair:** Phil Starks was selected the faculty chair at the last meeting of the 2011–12 session.

**Meetings:** This was an exciting year for the committee. The committee met once a month for 1½ hours and for a half day on the 1st day of reading period each semester.

**The committee’s major activities this academic year were as follows:**

1. We selected courses for both the Spring 2013 in Fall 2014 semesters.
   a. Fall 2012: Of 147 lecturer proposals submitted, 22 were accepted to be taught for Fall 2012 (615 students enrolled in ExCollege courses, and 198 in Explorations and Perspectives)
   b. Spring 2013: Of 148 lecturer proposals submitted, 23 were accepted to be taught for Spring 2013. (679 students enrolled in courses as of 1pm on 2/21/13)
2. We made improvements to our course selection process. These improvements include:
   a. Online proposal review
   b. Increased field-based categorization of proposals
   c. A new procedure for reviewing proposals for peer taught courses
3. We are making a concerted effort to reach out to students and faculty to ensure a needs-based course selection process, rather than a proposal-driven course selection process. These activities include:
   a. Changes to the senior survey
   b. Web-based surveys of students and alumni
   c. Discussion with department and program chairs (May 15, 2013).
4. We hosted the Election Night Extravaganza. This open event attracted more than 1,000 students and virtually took over the campus center during election night. Students and faculty worked diligently, and even with political differences, students had a good time discussing issues.
5. We hosted “Taste of Tufts: A Sampling of Faculty Research”. Our speakers included:
   a. Mary Davis, Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning
   b. Ken Garden, Religion
   c. Nina Gerassi-Navarro, Romance Languages
   d. David Harris, Provost and Senior Vice President
      • Scheduled for 4/19 but the university closed
   e. Anthony Monaco, President
   f. Noe Montez, Drama and Dance
   g. Sam Sommers, Psychology
   h. Ayanna Thomas, Psychology

6. We have been planning the celebration of our 50\textsuperscript{th} birthday in 2014
7. We selected student and faculty members for 2013-14 (see below)

**Next Year (2013-14)**

**Faculty Chair:** Ken Garden was selected faculty chair for 2013-14.

**Committee members, 2013-14:** Rebecca Czaja (’14), Mary Davis - Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Sarah Fields (’14), Stephan Fuchs – Biology, Ken Garden – Religion, Hong Jie Lim (’16), Noe Montez – Drama, Kumar Ramanathan (’15), Marcy Regalado (’15), Jason Rife - Mechanical Engineering

On behalf of the committee
Phil Starks, Chair

**Committee members, 2012-13:** Ken Garden – Religion, Brionna Jimerson (’13), Noe Montez – Drama, Kumar Ramanathan (’15), Chris Rogers - Mechanical Engineering, Rusty Russell - Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Dhiren Shah (’13), Phil Starks – Biology, Gabrielle Thomas (’13), Amy Wipfler (’13)