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 is charged with 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. The board is composed of ExCollege staff, a rotating body of faculty (with frequent assistance from board alumni), and students. This diverse mix of perspectives on Tufts as a community and an institution makes the board a particularly vibrant corner of Tufts and the insights it produces lead to unique and timely programming.


Faculty Chair: Ken Garden served as chair for the 2014-15 academic year. He will be replaced by Mary Davis for the 2015-16 academic year.

Meetings: The board met once a month for 1½ hours to discuss ongoing business and for a half day on the 1st day of reading period each semester to select courses for the following semester. Additionally, this year, student board members met every week with Associate Director Howard Woolf as a planning committee, as a result of which we were able to offer more programming this year.

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

1. We selected courses for both the Spring 2015 in Fall 2016 semesters. Enrollment figures for fall 2014 and spring 2015 were as follows:
   a. Fall 2014 (selected spring 2014): Of 92 lecturer proposals submitted, we accepted 23. 651 students enrolled in these courses, 191 students enrolled in first-year seminars. Total enrollment: 842.
   b. Spring 2015 (selected fall 2014): Of 96 lecturer proposals submitted, we accepted 24. 699 students enrolled in these courses.
2. The new student planning committee offered a program entitled “Humanism in Action,” co-sponsored by the Chaplaincy.
3. In response to student recommendations we have changed the registration schedule for ExCollege courses. While in the past we have opened our courses for registration on the first day of classes, we now open them for registration in June for
the fall semester and early January for the spring semester. Given the timetable for selecting courses, it is unfortunately impossible to allow registration for ExCollege courses at the same time as other courses, but this change has been well received.

4. Much as other programs that were first nurtured in the ExCollege eventually became majors in their own right under the umbrella of Arts and Sciences (Women’s Studies, Peace and Justice Studies, etc.), Film and Media Studies this year became a full fledged program in A&S, after being voted in by faculty at the May 6th, 2015 A&S meeting.

5. We completed our commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Excollege with the first annual Janover Family Lecture by Tufts alumnus and NASA astronaut Rick Hauck on November 18, 2014, entitled “Human Space Travel: Where have we been? Where are we going?” The Janover family gave the ExCollege a generous gift that will allow us to offer an annual lecture for the next 5-10 years.

6. The Experimental College went through an external review:
   a. We reviewed the self-assessment prepared by the director and associate directly
   b. All members of the board met with the external reviewers. Student and faculty board members met separately. Faculty board members included many past board members as well as those presently serving.

7. We selected student and faculty members for 2014-15 (see below).

8. I, Ken Garden, will be stepping down as chair of the ExCollege Board after two years. Mary Davis (Associate Professor, Urban and Environmental Policy) will be chair of the board in the 2015-16 academic year.

9. Our director, Robyn Gittleman, is stepping down after nearly 45 years of leading the Experimental College. We have discussed the future direction of the ExCollege, and a process is underway for selecting her replacement.

Next Year (2015-16)

**Faculty Chair:** Mary Davis will be faculty chair for 2015-16.

**Board members, 2015–16:** Ronna Ten Brink (‘17), Mary Davis - Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning, Stephan Fuchs – Biology, Ariel Goldberg – Psychology, Sarah Killian (‘16), Stephanie Li (‘16), Scott Mongold (“18), Sara Newman (“18), Mark Salander (‘16), Grace Segers (‘17), Lilly Tahmasebi (‘17), Qiaobing Xu – Biomedical Engineering.

On behalf of the committee

Ken Garden, Chair