

October 2012 – Report to the Community

Dear Members of the Haverford Community,

We write to report on the meeting of the Board of Managers of October 11-13, 2012. This was the first meeting of the 2012-2013 academic year, a year with two significant agenda items for the Board: one, to engage in the first half of a two-year strategic planning process; and two, to conduct an introspective and self-critical look at the way the Board itself functions.

The goal of the strategic planning process is to develop a compelling and ambitious set of goals and aspirations designed to strengthen Haverford in the years ahead. It will build on and integrate thinking done as part of the Academic Blueprint, the Campus Master Plan, and numerous other planning projects undertaken in recent years.

The first year of planning will be led by Interim President Joanne Creighton, and the Board engaged in conversations with members of campus community who have started some of the early planning work. Important conversations about the curriculum, co-curriculum, and associated physical and technological resources will continue within the Board and on campus in the months ahead and will require our community's best thinking.

President-Elect Dan Weiss attended the Board meeting in its entirety and voiced his support for the planning work underway. He and Interim President Creighton will remain in consultation about this work throughout the year, as well as the financial planning that will accompany it. President-Elect Weiss will lead the second half of the strategic planning process in the 2013-2014 academic year.

The Board's second major topic at this meeting, its self-assessment, involved significant work at both the committee level and as a full board. Under the leadership of Co-Chairs Catherine P. Koshland '72 and Howard W. Lutnick '83, the Board will use this process to develop a more coherent and comprehensive articulation of its critical roles and responsibilities, as well as those of its committees and of individual managers. The Board is committed to improving its own functioning in service to the College and its mission, and to providing both the fiduciary stewardship and strategic oversight required to sustain Haverford's strength into the future.

On Saturday the Board participated in the dedication of Kim and Tritton Dormitories which brought together many members of the Haverford community: students, faculty, staff, and alumni as well as four presidents: Thomas Tritton, in whose honor one new dormitory was named; Stephen Emerson '74, who shepherded this project through the recession, interim president Joanne Creighton, and President-Elect Dan Weiss. We know you join us in thanking Steve Jaharis '82, Michael Kim '85, and their families for their transformative generosity. These beautiful new buildings will serve the College well for generations to come.

The Board will meet telephonically in December, and then reconvene on campus in February.

We thank all the faculty, staff, and students who made this meeting a success.

Sincerely,

Catherine P. Koshland '72, Co-Chair
Howard W. Lutnick '83, Co-Chair
Joanne V. Creighton, Interim President