October 2013 – Report to the Community

Dear Members of the Haverford Community,

We write to report on the meetings of the Board of Managers held on campus October 24-26, 2013.

This was the first meeting of the Board during Daniel Weiss’s presidency, and the sessions began with President Weiss outlining his goals and priorities for the College. This year, the College will complete the second of its two-year strategic planning process designed to build on Haverford’s existing strengths and position the College for continued success in a rapidly changing higher education landscape. The Board heard updates on proposed investments in technological infrastructure, academic enrichment, and academic spaces, including the evolving plans to address needs in the Old Gym, Magill Library, Sharpless Hall, and Music facilities. The Board continued its deliberations about the College’s financial aid policies as part of building a sustainable framework that will support the community’s ambitions over the coming years.

The Board was also buoyed by the announcement of significant philanthropic gifts in support of the plan’s initiatives, fuller details of which will be forthcoming. The Board affirmed its commitment to finalize campaign priorities based on the strategic plan’s articulated priorities at its April 2014 meeting. The public phase of the campaign is slated to begin with an on-campus event on Saturday, October 25, 2014; all members of the campus community will be welcome.

The Board reviewed and approved appointments for promotion and tenure. We congratulate the following individuals on their promotion to Associate Professor with tenure: Jennifer Lilgendahl (Psychology), Terrence Johnson (Religion), Bret Mulligan (Classics), and Rachel Hoang (Biology). Congratulations also go to Anita Isaacs (Political Science), Ingrid Arauco (Music), and Tracey Hucks (Religion) who were promoted to full professor.

The Committee on Investments and Social Responsibility concluded its deliberations on a proposal to divest Haverford’s endowment assets from companies in the fossil fuel industry. CISR presented a unanimous recommendation to the Board to decline that proposal while simultaneously charging the College to undertake more focused engagement on issues of environmental responsibility. In a separate letter, President Weiss elaborates on the divestment issue and the Board’s mandate.

This was the first Board meeting for four new members of the Board: Amy Taylor Brooks ’92, Sydney “Skip” Herman ’75, Jennifer Perkins ’82, and Henry Ritchotte ’85, as well as Young Alumni Associate Will Moss ’05.

It was a special privilege for the Board to share in the community’s celebration of the presidential inauguration on Saturday, October 26: it is an exciting time for Haverford as we come together to start a new chapter in the College’s history.

We’d like to thank all the staff, faculty, and students, who contributed to making the weekend a success.

Sincerely,

Catherine P. Koshland ’72, Co-Chair
Howard W. Lutnick ’83, Co-Chair
Daniel H. Weiss, President