Bank Street
College Advisory Council

College Advisory Council
2024-25 Academic Year

MINUTES SUMMARY (OCTOBER)

- Our meeting opened with introductions and welcomes along with an icebreaker.
- We then welcomed Shael to our meeting and here's a summary of his remarks: Shael started by thanking everyone for volunteering their time to serve as the CAC members, and to set the tone for what his hopes are for this academic year. This includes being the connective tissue across Bank Street, as sometimes it's hard to lift your head up, and hard to get to know people. Leadership wants to understand better and no better about what's happening across Bank Street. There is a commitment from the leadership and cabinet team to try and be creative to build those collaborations for learning, friendships. Being hybrid makes this work harder as it adds a layer of complexity, so how do we think creatively and share knowledge? And that's what makes it fun. All ideas don't have to be big ideas, nor do they need to cross over divisional spaces, they can be within a division. We do have one day a year where we stop doing all our work for a retreat and the feedback is always positive. What are smaller ways this work can be done - there are important conversations, celebrations, service, this is all part of the role that Regina has taken on to help the institution as a whole. There will be hard moments, such as the war in Israel/Gaza/Lebanon, the Pandemic, the elections— we need to process this together as a community. Let's look for moments where we can see there's a need to engage and act and bring people together is something we can do. We can push our leadership to do this as well—what are the concerns from staff? Raise those concerns up, are they understood by leaders? Leaders will address these issues.
- Follow up questions:
    - What are the mechanisms for communicating issues? What's the feedback loop? How do we let people know they've been heard?
    - What does the school/cabinet do with the survey information that's collected? Where does all the info live?

    - Can we as community members hear what's being reflected on? Who holds it?
    - Can this be built into our All College Meeting cycle, where there's a summary of the survey data?

  A reminder that we're not a huge institution, with approximately 350 FT staff, each of us connecting people into networks. The service and gift giving was an experiment, that was something new that the CAC tried, and it struck a chord.
- This led us to talk about ideas:
    - Newsletters: Alumni puts out the newsletter - CPS puts out a newsletter - Faculty GSE newsletter - maybe they could be shared more widely? People can sign up for these newsletters through a CAC sign up on our website? A lot of interesting info going out to audiences digitally. This seems like an easy way to loop in, at least informationally. We're siloed based on our email lists.
    - CAC pair shares as an experiment for a larger community effort? Who can we pair with in our own committee to learn their work?
- **Retreat Update** | Regina reminded us that the CAC needs to be present of the entire event and help from set up to break down.
- **Reviewing the CAC Committee Membership** | Pamela to make proposed changes to the charter.
- **Holiday Party** | Put your thinking caps on!