

# The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

Friday, April 20, 2018

## Data

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A significant part of my job is to provide data to people in the academic division to inform their decision making. The college has made substantial improvements in the last few years that have made finding these data much easier. From more robust reporting tools to a new Institutional Effectiveness and Analytics team, we've made improvements that allow us to answer many more questions efficiently and accurately. If you are in need of data, chances are a request to Lauren Amick, the academic data analyst (a position newly created this year), will get it done.

Here are some random factoids that we've learned while trying to answer questions from around the academic division:

1. Over the fifty-year period 1967–2016, there were 1,804 doctoral degrees awarded to Calvin graduates by US institutions. That's about 37 a year. The rate has been remarkably constant over the whole fifty-year period. (NSF Survey of Earned Doctorates)
2. On average, female instructors receive higher overall student evaluations than male instructors (by about 0.1 on the question on which students rate the instructor).
3. Of nine outcomes named in the Educational Framework, students report the greatest learning gains in their writing proficiency over their time at Calvin. (graduating senior survey)
4. The amount of world language taken in high school is a reasonably strong predictor of retention, even controlling for such factors as high school GPA and college-entrance test scores. (Retention Task Force)
5. Next fall, twenty-nine classes meeting on Monday will start at 8:00 a.m.; eighty will start at 10:30 a.m.
6. About 48% of undergraduate net tuition revenue pays the direct expenses of delivering academic programs (i.e., faculty salaries and the expenses of running academic departments). The other 52% pays for everything else we do both in and out of the academic division.
7. The standard teaching load is defined as 21–24 load hours. Awarding overload pay for each hour over 21 hours would have cost about \$400,000 this academic year.

I don't know what to conclude from all these, but perhaps you do.

*Michael Stob, dean for academic administration*

## Cultural Competence Professional Development (CCPD)

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Both the *FEN* document and the current Strategic Plan call for every Calvin faculty and staff member to complete at least one cultural competence professional development (CCPD) activity every academic year. Our goal is for 80% of faculty and staff to report completing a CCPD by May 1. As of April 17th, 50% of faculty and 69% of staff have reported participating in a CCPD event. A special shout-out to the Student Life Division and the Advancement Division: both are at 93%.

Looking for a way to fulfill the requirement? There will be two opportunities coming up next week, on April 26 and 27, called "Stand against Racism," featuring Christina Edmondson and Austin Brown as presenters. Go [here](#) for more information and to RSVP. Remember to report CCPD events [here](#). For questions, contact [diversity@calvin.edu](mailto:diversity@calvin.edu).

## Open Textbooks Grant Opportunity

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There is a new grant program in the Congressional budget (the omnibus bill) that will support projects that expand the use of "open textbooks" in order to achieve savings for students while maintaining or improving

instruction and student learning outcomes. The grants will be managed by the Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), and applications are due before September 30, 2018. Please see [the website](#) for more information. There is a possibility of collaborating with other New American Colleges and Universities institutions. If you have interest in learning more about open education resources or collaborating on a grant, contact [David Malone](#).

### From the Faculty Activity Reports

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- David Hoekema (Philosophy), "When Art Comes to Church: The Annual ArtPrize Competition in Grand Rapids Brings Artwork and Artists into Places of Worship," [Christian Century](#), March 14, 2018.
- Brendan Looyenga (Chemistry and Biochemistry), "A Precious Jewel (1 & 2)," *Standard Bearer* 94, nos. 5, 9 (2018).
- Stacey Wieland (Communication Arts and Sciences), Diamond Anniversary Award for Top Paper: "Practicing Resilience in the Face of Job Loss and the Changing Social Contract" (lecture, Central States Communication Association, Milwaukee, WI, April 7, 2018).

Be sure to [fill out](#) your Faculty Activity Reports regularly. If you have questions, see the [FAQ page](#).

### Coming Up on Campus (Check the [campus calendar](#) for a full list of events)

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#### Monday, April 23

- Chapel. Wayne Coleman. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- #MeToo #CalvinToo: Results from the 2017 Campus Survey on Sexual Violence. Rachel Venema. 3:30 p.m., Commons Annex lecture hall

#### Tuesday, April 24

- Chapel. *Lectio divina* with Bob Crow and Pastor Joella. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Asian Studies lecture. Michel Chambon (Boston U), "The Chinese Rites Controversy 1636–1742: Potentialities and Risks of Dialogue between China and the West." 3:30 p.m., Commons Annex lecture hall
- Faculty Senate meeting. 4:30 p.m., Hoogenboom 280

#### Wednesday, April 25

- Chapel. Hymn-sing. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- History Colloquium. Honors student presentations. 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall

#### Thursday, April 26

- Chapel. Sounds of American folk worship with Luke Enders. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Lunch and Learn. Christina Edmondson, "Stand Against Racism." 12:00 p.m., Commons Annex alumni board room.
- Education Program forum. Ron Sjoerdsma and Janneke Cole, "Curriculum Development for a Liberian School That Represents, Reflects, and Includes the Liberian Culture." [RSVP here](#). 3:30 p.m., Meeter Center lecture hall

#### Friday, April 27

- Chapel. Student worship team. 10:00 a.m., Chapel
- Lunch and Learn. Austin Brown, "Stand against Racism." 12:00 p.m., Commons Annex lecture hall.
- Biology seminar. Nathan Lujan, "Adventures in Amazonian Fish Ecology and Evolution." 1:30 p.m., SB 010