

The Academic Bulletin

from the Office of the Provost of Calvin College

June 1, 2018

Summer Fun

This past holiday weekend, you may have encountered a few well-intentioned questions about your plans for the summer months, including the ever-popular “So, do you have summer off?” Like you, we in the provost’s office field questions about how we spend our summer; like you, we save for summer some of the projects that require sustained attention, something that can be in short supply during the regular academic year. Here are some things on our list:

Strategic planning for the newly approved Vision 2030 statement. Four groups of faculty and staff will each be working on one aspect of the Vision 2030: university structure, university processes, trusted partners, and Reformed Christian mission. If you haven’t had a chance to read through the final version of the statement that was approved by the Board of Trustees, you can find it [here](#).

Planning for faculty and staff development in Reformed Christianity. In response to a recent \$1.5 million grant, a group of faculty and staff will plan for enhancing faculty and staff development in various areas of Reformed Christianity, including integrating faith and learning in our work.

Academic program review. This spring, the Planning and Priorities Committee approved a task force to review academic programs. This comes out of several mandates from earlier college documents (e.g., prioritization documents of 2014 and 2015; the current strategic plan, §I.4.a). During the summer, faculty members who were appointed to this task force will review their mandate and plan for how best to do their work.

Market analysis of academic programs. With the help of a company that specializes in higher education (Human Capital Research Corporation), we will conduct an analysis of the kinds of academic programs that prospective students—graduate as well as undergraduate—might find attractive.

Continued work on these strategic plan objectives already underway:

- Improving the academic course scheduling process
- Collecting feedback on recommendations emerging from the faculty workload study
- Planning for student success initiatives, particularly those related to the \$1 million grant from the Meijer Foundation
- Assessing academic programs, the core, and noncredit-bearing academic programs
- Fine-tuning the ways in which academic program costs are calculated
- Improving academic learning spaces
- Implementing various program initiatives such as the Arts Council, Health Sciences, and the Honors/Scholars program
- Revising the faculty handbook sections regarding reappointment and promotion processes.

Many of you have one or more of these projects on your own summer to-do list, and I am grateful for your willingness to contribute to the ongoing work of planning and implementation. If you would like more details about any of the above projects, please feel free to contact me, Elizabeth Vander Lei, or Arlene Hoogewerf.

I wish you all the best as you carry out your summer work and hope that you will also find time for rest and relaxation with family and friends. Thank you, as always, for all of your continued good work for our students and the college.

Cheryl Brandsen, provost

From the Faculty Activity Reports

- Marjorie Terpstra (Education), “Digital Citizenship: How Do We Prepare Teacher Candidates and Teachers to Lead the Way?” (lecture, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, Baltimore, MD, March 1, 2018).
- Matt Heun (Engineering) “[Untangling the Drivers of Energy Reduction in the UK Productive Sectors: Efficiency or Offshoring?](#)” *Applied Energy* 223 (2018): 124–133.
- Joel Westra (Political Science), “Foreign Policy in the Age of Twitter” (lecture, The Great Conversation, University of Houston, Houston, TX, March 24, 2018).

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

Congratulations

Eric Washington was named [professor of the year](#) for 2018 by vote of Calvin’s senior class.

Lew Klatt was the recipient of the 2018 [Presidential Award for Exemplary Teaching](#). This award recognizes a faculty member who not only has exceptional teaching skills but also consistently influences the lives and careers of Calvin students in lifelong Christian ways.

Summer Diversity Event

Congregations Organizing for Racial Reconciliation (CORR) Understanding Racism Workshop, June 14–16, Church of the Servant. More information available [here](#).

Keeping Faith: 579 Years of Learning

Here is a link to the video shown at the May 4 tributes and awards dinner: <https://vimeo.com/269200497>

Write a Note to a Retiring Colleague

If you didn’t get a chance to send off a special retiree with a note at the staff and faculty appreciation event on May 11, you may still do so. Please stop by the Provost’s Office **before June 15** to handwrite a note on the pages we have prepared; if you’re not able to stop by in person, you may send a personal note to Betsy in the Provost’s Office or an email to provost@calvin.edu. The notes will be compiled and delivered to each retiree. Here is the complete list of retiring colleagues who were honored this year: Joel Carpenter, Bob Eames, Arie Griffioen, David Hoekema, Cal Jen, Jan Koop, Larry Louters, Greg Mellema, Rich Nyhof, Shirley Roels, Beth Schoone-Jongen, Bob Schoone-Jongen, Ron Sjoerdsma, Frank Speyers, Phil Stegink, Mike Stob, Gary Talsma, Barb Timmermans, Jim Vanden Bosch, Evert Van Der Heide, Randy Van Dragt, Jo-Ann Van Reeuwijk.

Fall Faculty and Staff Conference

Please mark your calendar now for the annual Fall Conference for Faculty and Staff on August 23, 2018.