

Amended October 14, 2010

The fifth meeting of the Committee of Six for the academic year 2010-2011 was called to order by President Marx in his office at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, October 7, 2010. Present were Professors Basu, Ciepiela, Loinaz, Rockwell, Umphrey, and Saxton; Jide Zeitlin '85, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dean Call; President Marx; and Assistant Dean Tobin, Recorder.

The meeting began with the members congratulating President Marx on his appointment as President of the New York Public Library, a position that he had announced that he will assume at the end of this academic year. The President thanked the members and expressed regret that the announcement that he would be leaving the College had appeared in the media before he could inform the Amherst community, as he had planned. President Marx commented that he has been privileged and proud to be a member of the Amherst administration, Faculty, Board, and staff and to have had the opportunity to work closely with the Committee of Six.

Discussion turned to the process that will be used to search for the next President. Mr. Zeitlin, who said that a search consultant would be hired soon, explained that he will chair the search committee and that he plans to form the group by the time the Trustees complete their upcoming meetings (October 14-16). The Board Chairman described the make-up of the committee as follows: five Trustees, including himself; three faculty members (elected by the Faculty); one administrator (appointed by the President, in consultation with the Senior Staff); one staff member (selected by the Advisory Committee on Personnel Policies); two students; and two alumni/ae (selected through the Alumni Association). Mr. Zeitlin said that, while he is moving quickly to form the committee, once this structure is in place, the search process will proceed with thoroughness and care and will not be dictated by a calendar. The Chairman anticipates that the search committee will engage in conversation with the Amherst community for the remainder of this semester and will likely begin the stage of speaking with candidates during the Spring semester. The goal of the process will be to hire the strongest President possible, Mr. Zeitlin said, with the hope of appointing and/or having a new individual in place this summer. Depending on the course of events, it may become necessary to appoint an Interim President, Mr. Zeitlin noted.

Professor Umphrey asked how the Committee of Six could assist with the search process. Mr. Zeitlin thanked Professor Umphrey for inquiring and responded that there will be natural points of consultation with the Committee of Six as the search process unfolds. He said that the search committee may begin its consultative process by speaking with the Committee of Six.

The Dean discussed with the members possible ways of structuring the ballot for the election of the faculty representatives to the search committee. Dean Call noted that a Committee of Six-style election had been used to elect the faculty representatives to the most recent Presidential Search Committee, and the members agreed that a similar process should be used for this election. The members discussed whether to include on the ballot colleagues on leave this year and next, whether to include faculty who are administrators, and whether to include current members of the Committee of Six, the College Council, and the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP). The members agreed that colleagues who are on leave this year should be asked whether they would prefer to be included on the ballot and should not be included unless they indicate a desire to be; faculty who are serving in administrative roles should not be included; faculty in their first year at the College should not be included; and members of the afore-mentioned committees should be included. By the time of the Committee of Six meeting, the Dean had sent an email to all tenure- and tenure-track faculty requesting that

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any colleague who did not wish to be on the ballot contact him and ask to be removed. The Committee thanked Mr. Zeitlin.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Call
Dean of the Faculty