

Amended December 14, 2011

The thirteenth meeting of the Committee of Six for the academic year 2011-2012 was called to order by President Martin in her office at 3:30 P.M. on Monday, December 12, 2011. Present were Professors Basu, Ferguson, Hewitt, Loinaz, Ratner, and Umphrey, Dean Call, President Martin, and Assistant Dean Tobin, Recorder.

The meeting began with President Martin asking the members about the possibility of the Committee meeting with Jack Stripling, a reporter at the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, who will be on campus later this week to conduct interviews and do research for a story that he is writing about Amherst. The President explained that she had met with Mr. Stripling, whom she admires as a journalist, when she was in Washington recently. Among the topics that they had discussed was the Amherst Faculty's central role in the governance of the College, including the importance and unusual set of responsibilities of the Committee of Six. Mr. Stripling, who had been impressed to learn from President Martin about the range and great regularity of the consultation between the President and the Dean and the Committee of Six, had expressed interest in learning more about the Committee and about possibly including details about its role in his piece. President Martin said that she sees the article as an opportunity to showcase Amherst's many strengths and noted that the visibility it could bring could be helpful in faculty recruitment efforts, particularly if the piece stresses the critical role of the Faculty in the governance and administration of the College. The President cautioned, however, that the College will not have any control over the journalistic approach that Mr. Stripling chooses to take, or the substance of his article. President Martin informed the members that she had invited Mr. Stripling to attend her holiday party on Thursday as one way of giving him a sense of the Amherst milieu and community. The members said that they would be willing to meet with Mr. Stripling as a committee during the members' final meeting of the semester, which has been set for Friday. It was agreed that he could be invited to observe the portion of the meeting during which the long-range planning process would be discussed. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to personnel matters.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory S. Call  
Dean of the Faculty