

The thirty-seventh meeting of the Committee of Six for the academic year 2020–2021 was called to order by President Martin via Zoom at 3:15 P.M. on Monday, May 10, 2021. Present, in addition to the president, were Professors del Moral, Kingston, Leise, Trapani, and Umphrey; Provost and Dean of the Faculty Epstein; and Associate Provost Tobin, recorder. Professor Manion was absent.

Under “Questions from Committee Members, Professor Trapani, on behalf of a colleague, noted that it appears that the Workday system may not be up to date in regard to reflecting transactions involving some accounts, as the end of the fiscal year approaches. A result could be that some balances being shown may not be accurate because debits are not reflected, and that overspending may occur. Professor Trapani asked how this issue would be resolved. Provost Epstein said that this problem will be addressed, and that those with questions should be in touch with Katie O’Hara Edwards or should also write to AskIT.

Continuing with questions, Professor Umphrey thanked the provost for being so responsive to the committee’s request to change the schedule for orientation advising, so that faculty will not be required to do this work over the summer. Provost Epstein said that she is grateful for the committee’s feedback and was happy to be able to revise the plans that had been announced earlier.

President Martin next asked for the committee’s suggestions for faculty who might serve on the advisory committee, comprising students, faculty, and staff, that will work with Cambridge Hill Partners to generate options for a community safety model that will support the range of needs within the college community and reflect Amherst’s commitment to equity and inclusion. She explained that she has asked the Association of Amherst Students to select student members and the Employee Council to choose staff members. The advisory committee will begin its work shortly and will present its findings to her and the senior leadership by mid-October 2021, President Martin said. She will then bring recommendations to the board of trustees for its consideration. (For more information, [see the president’s announcement that was sent to the community](#) soon after the committee’s meeting ended.) The members then suggested colleagues to serve on the committee.

Discussion turned to a draft of the faculty meeting agenda for the May 18 Meeting. The committee made some revisions to the draft motions regarding the proposal to adopt either a 4.0 or 4.33 grading scale, in the interest of clarity; voted on the motions; and then voted five in favor and zero opposed to forward the agenda to the faculty. (The members voted electronically on the final motions on May 12, 2021, and voted six in favor and zero opposed on substance and six in favor and zero opposed to forward the motions to the faculty.) The members then turned to personnel matters.

The members turned next to assignments for faculty committees, reviewing a list of suggestions brought forward by the provost’s office and making alternative recommendations, in some cases. The committee agreed to continue this work at its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Epstein
Provost and Dean of the Faculty