

Annual Report on the Three-College Collaboration 2010-11

Submitted by Adele Wolfson, Director

I am pleased to submit this annual report on the first full year of the formal collaboration under my direction. During this year we made significant progress towards our goals, laid the groundwork for future projects, and identified areas that need further attention.

At the beginning of last year, I stated that my goals were to make progress on governance and communication. I also hoped to draw the three communities closer together through formal and informal programming. Below are listed some of the highlights in each of these areas

Governance/Process:

- We appointed an Associate Director, Joanne Kossuth. Joanne and I meet monthly, and she has primary responsibility for all administrative functions among the three colleges.
- A three-college faculty committee was established, with three members from each college, as well as an executive committee with one member from each. The larger committee meets once each semester and is consulted in person or by email about major initiatives on the academic side. The executive committee meets several times each semester and advises about ongoing projects.
- I continue to report to both my president and provost and to meet with all three college presidents each semester. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss issues that require highest-level authority.
- There have been regular meetings of the directors of facilities and planning on each campus (Joanne Kossuth, Mary Rose, Bob Bossange).
- There have been regular meetings of the three provosts/deans, sometimes with deans or associate deans. The three deans of admissions have been working together since before the formal establishment of the collaboration. At least 30 project teams are working on administrative functions.
- There have been scheduled bi-monthly meetings of the three CIOs, scheduled project team meetings for various IT initiatives, and at least two meetings of the three registrars.
- Joanne and I have developed an invoice for exchange of funds among campuses when appropriate. We have established an account on the Wellesley campus that will contain funds for three-college programs that I administer.

Communication:

- We have established a website, 3collegesbow.org (also accessible as bow3colleges.org) that currently contains information on the announcement of the collaboration, cross-registration, and January programs. We hope to make it more useful and comprehensive as internal

and external audiences are directed to it. The site will also contain a “web of faculty interests” that is currently in beta mode.

- Administrative working groups have been sharing information via a wiki (wikis.olin.edu/bow/doku.php)
- Most communication with faculty has been via the faculty committees, and with students via college government and other student groups.

Major accomplishments:

- Approval of a certificate in sustainability on all three campuses. The program is a six-course sequence: a team-taught introductory course; a series of four electives, at least one on each campus and at least one in each of the areas business, engineering, and liberal arts/sciences; and a team-taught capstone course. Completion of the certificate will be noted on the transcript. The group of faculty who have been working towards this goal pre-date the formal Three-College Collaboration and have served to model both the process and the willingness to work across cultures that characterizes the partnership. They are engaged in planning the introductory course this summer; it already has a healthy enrollment and promises to be very exciting.
- Successful grant proposal to the Mellon Foundation by Wellesley College in support of Three-College activities. This is a significant development since Mellon has traditionally supported only the liberal arts.
- Agreement on a 4-1 double degree program Olin/Wellesley
- Creation of an innovation fund, to be announced and rolled out in fall 2011. Using the Mellon grant and money committed by the three presidents, this fund will support new ideas for work across the campuses or expanded scope of activities for ongoing work. The criteria will favor those projects that have participation from all three colleges and all three areas of study; those that are sustainable after the initial grant period; and those that are truly innovative. The number of projects funded and the amount of the awards will vary from year to year based on project merit and available budget. The majority of awards will likely total between \$500 and \$2000, but in exception cases awards of up to \$10,000 will be considered. Committees comprised of faculty, staff, and students will review proposals and make recommendations on awards for approval by the college presidents.
- A one-day workshop in Jan for faculty on pedagogy and student learning that attracted over 60 faculty from all three campuses and led to many follow-up activities.
- Two-week January program for students on the same topic of pedagogy and learning that established a model for future intersession programs.
- Administrative agreements on cross-dining for students and parking for faculty and staff.

Other notable programming and progress:

- One-day workshop on statistics for faculty from the three colleges, and a grant proposal on teaching of statistics.
- Sharing of faculty and staff across campuses.
- First joint hire of a staff member Olin/Wellesley (machinist).
- Biweekly student gatherings for discussion of "big ideas."

Social gatherings:

- Reception and program for new faculty at Wellesley in fall, reception for all junior faculty at Wellesley in spring.
- Reception for all faculty at Babson in spring.
- Reception for all staff at Olin in spring
- Two Information services/technology receptions, one at Olin, one at Wellesley.
- Lunch for faculty at Babson in spring.
- All of these have been greeted with great enthusiasm. Together with the January workshop, the faculty gatherings have been excellent venues for educating faculty, especially new faculty, about the collaboration and its possibilities. The staff gatherings have help connect staff members to ongoing and new projects as well as helped to create a "network" among staff members

External visibility:

- The three presidents, director, and three students from the January program were featured at an Admission event for guidance counselors.
- Rick Miller and Adele spoke to the Wellesley Business Leadership Council.
- Joanne Kossuth published a column in EDUCAUSE review that focused on the Three-College Collaboration.
- Adele was invited to the annual meeting of MassEcon.
- Joanne was invites to speak at the ALA (American Library Association) annual conference on collaboration.
- Adele and Joanne presented jointly to the trustees of Olin and of Babson.
- The Three-College Collaboration, together with the Boston Consortium, will host the New England group of college consortia July 28th.
- Howard Gardner has been interviewing members of the three-college community as part of a study on collaboration.

Plans for 2011-12:

- Staged reading of the play, "From Orchids to Octopi" (a play about Darwin, written by a Wellesley faculty member with support from NIH), followed by dinner and discussion about the interplay among science, arts, and society. Tentatively scheduled for 9/19.
- We have planned one faculty lunch or reception (first one tentatively scheduled for 12/8 at Olin), one staff reception (tentatively scheduled for late Sept at Wellesley), and one Information services/technology reception each semester (to be held at Babson).

- Babson has invited the authors of *Academically Adrift* to campus, and we would like to make this a three-college event.
- Amy Smith (of MIT's D lab) will deliver the Wilson lecture at Wellesley on 9/27; members of the three communities will be invited and we will follow up to see if we can link the three-college sustainability program to her activities.
- Planning will begin for student intersession program in early fall.
- The students plan an "org fair" in early fall.

Issues to consider moving forward:

- Need to define further the "org chart" and reporting structures.
- Need for additional administrative staff.
- Development of sustainable channels for website content, perhaps with the creation of BOW interns to assist with refreshing content on an ongoing basis.
- Process for consideration of requests from outside audiences; web form and contact list currently under development
- Further development of the collaborative vision and next steps through a retreat (directors, presidents, cabinets/senior staff, trustee chairs) for summer 2012.

As you can see, this has been an extremely productive and exciting year. Beyond the plans outlined above, ideas continue to roll in, including a possible certificate program in business in China, a service learning trip to Africa, increased connectivity among libraries, and joint orientation activities for new faculty and staff. I look forward to guiding these initiatives forward and seeing what new ideas arise.