



Caroline Webb <caroline.ec.webb@gmail.com>

April 2021 VPR Newsletter

2 messages

Office of the Vice Provost for Research <vproffice@bc.edu>

Wed, Feb 23, 2022 at 10:58 PM

Reply-To: vproffice@bc.edu

To: caroline.ec.webb@gmail.com

**April 2021****Glenn Gaudette's Vision For the Engineering Department**
The Inaugural Chair Discusses the Unique Perspective of the BC Engineering Department

Glenn Gaudette officially began his role as the inaugural chair of the new Boston College engineering department on January 1, 2021 after the formal University announcement of his position on November 19, 2020. The basis of Gaudette's vision for the engineering department is "a commitment to creating value for others and having a positive impact on the world in a collaborative way." Gaudette plans to develop a department with a "true integration between engineering, liberal arts and other programs BC is known for."



Gaudette identifies the opportunity for collaboration within and outside of the natural sciences to develop holistic, Human-Centered Engineering (HCE) solutions that address critical needs in a sustainable way as one of the most attractive aspects of Boston College. This approach differentiates itself from the traditional emphasis on technical expertise alone through a reflective process in which students and faculty seek to understand the "real problem" through partnership with existing industry players and a diverse team of collaborators of different backgrounds, lived experiences, disciplines, and educations.

Gaudette considers the BC statement of educating "men and women for others" to be an integrative part of his vision for the department. Gaudette seeks to staff and develop

reflective thinkers that are committed to making the world a better place and value the transdisciplinary approach that forms as the foundation for the department. He looks forward to working with a team of highly collaborative students and faculty interested in more than just their technical knowledge and who feel compelled to leverage their technical expertise to improve the lives of others.

Understanding BC's New Science & Engineering Building

In the summer of 2019, construction began on a five-story, 157,000 sq. ft. science and engineering building on the previous site of Cushing Hall. Nestled into the natural sciences district of the campus, it will include an internal link to Higgins Hall on the third floor. When complete, the building will house classrooms, an auditorium, the newly established Engineering Department, the Computer Sciences Department of the Morrissey College of Arts & Sciences, a Cleanroom, a Nanofabrication Facility, and the Schiller Institute for Integrated Science & Society. A key theme of the building's design is to showcase science and research through the extensive use of glazing on both the exterior and interior of the building. The building's layout places emphasis on fostering collaboration among students and faculty, in part, through the use of a ribbon of collaboration commons that run the interior circumference of the first 3 floors, with "write up" boards distributed throughout for ideation, including at the café on the first floor. Maker spaces are placed at prominent locations to provide visibility to the University community. The interior research spaces, conference rooms and offices are designed to support *trans*disciplinary research by acting as a hub for faculty from across the University to work together in close proximity. Still unnamed, the building will also house the Edmund H. Shea Jr. Center for Entrepreneurship to foster entrepreneurship.

Core Facilities Team In the Final Phases of iLab Implementation



Boston College Research Infrastructure & Operations in collaboration with BC Information Technology Services is approaching completion of the rollout of the Agilent iLab Core Facility Management system across all BC Research Core Facilities. The Research Core Facilities provide shared resources for the research community at Boston College and other outside

partners, offering a wide range of services including technical support, high-end instrumentation, fabrication, testing, and education. The new system will allow for consistency, increased utilization, and improved accessibility of core facilities for researchers at BC and other collaborating institutions and external users. The iLab system will provide convenient access to equipment information, training, access, usage of all the research technology and expertise that Boston College has to offer. Researchers with approved access can also utilize their user profile at other collaborating institutions that also run iLab like Harvard and MIT. Additionally, iLab will allow for ease of monitoring equipment usage and reporting to better inform program decisions on the administrative side of core facility management.

Helpful links and instructional videos can be found on the Research Facilities [iLab Information webpage](#) and additional questions can be directed to **Joshua Rappoport**, Executive Director of Research Infrastructure & Operations.

BC Foreign Influence Working Group Identifies Focus Areas and Next Steps

On February 26, 2021, the BC Foreign Influence Working Group (FIWG) held its quarterly meeting. The FIWG's members include faculty and staff representatives from across the University who are tasked with identifying improper foreign influence vulnerabilities in BC's academic and administrative operations and recommending policy solutions to mitigate the associated risks. While the FIWG is focused on protecting BC's research enterprise, academic programs and global engagement from loss, theft and exploitation, it is also dedicated to protecting BC's core values and the University's commitment to academic freedom, diversity and international collaboration.

During its February meeting, the FIWG discussed ten operational areas that are potentially at risk for improper foreign influence: export controls; information technology; international travel; international collaboration; foreign nationals on campus; conflicts of interest and commitment; gifts; intellectual property transfer; sponsored research; and biologics and health sciences. The FIWG identified "export controls" and "international travel" as the two areas it will address first and also selected the FIWG members who will be responsible for the initial analysis of those areas.

In the coming weeks and months, the FIWG Export Controls and International Travel subcommittees will, for each respective area: establish priorities; identify assets, threats and vulnerabilities (including the review of existing BC policies and processes); coordinate with various BC stakeholders with associated equities; report findings to the full FIWG membership; and, finally, draft policy and process recommendations for appropriate BC leadership to consider for adoption and implementation. The FIWG's next quarterly meeting will be held in June 2021.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES



Office of Research Protections

We're excited to announce that the IT Department has approved the use of Rev.com for data transcription. We highly encourage all researchers who need transcription services to use Rev.com if they are unable to complete transcription themselves. As a reminder, any new

RECENT FUNDING AWARDS

Brian Zhou, Physics, "CAREER: Imaging Light-Matter Interactions in Quantum Materials with Nanoscale Quantum Sensors." National Science Foundation.

Alicia H. Munnell, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College, "Retirement and Disability Research." Social Security Administration.

Welkin Johnson, Biology, "Viral dynamics of rebound and control following early treatment of HIV/SIV."

technology that PIs would like to use must first be approved through the **Get Tech process** before the IRB can approve your protocol. The approved technology list can be viewed **here**. The Office for Research Protections does *not* make decisions on which technologies can and cannot be used.

Office of Research Security and Export Compliance

The VPR recently received approval to hire an Export Compliance Officer who will be assigned to the Office of Research Security and Export Compliance. The Export Compliance Officer will be responsible for developing, managing and coordinating University-wide export control processes and ensure Boston College is compliant with federal export laws and regulations

Office for Technology Transfer and Licensing

The Office of Technology Transfer and Licensing has supported the growth of BC's patent portfolio through the issuance of five patents since the start of the 2021 fiscal year:

Patent No.10,673,094, "A Rechargeable Non-Aqueous MG-BR2 Battery" by Dunwei Wang, Xiahui Yao, Jingru Luo, and Qi Dong (Chemistry Department).

Patent No.10,854,937, "Photorechargeable High Voltage RedoxBattery Enabled by Photoelectrodes" by Dunwei Wang and Qingmei Cheng (Chemistry Department).

Patent No.10,669,636 "All solution-process and product for transparent conducting film" by Michael J. Naughton, Chaobin Yang, Kris Kempa, and Michael J. Burns (Physics Department).

Patent no.10,717,975 "Universal platform for genetic code expansion" by Abhishek Chatterjee and James Italia (ChemistryDepartment).

Application No. 16/317,452 (Allowed; Issue Fee Pending) "Halogen-Containing Metathesis Catalysts and Methods Thereof" by Amir Hoveyda, Ming Joo Koh, Thach T. Nguyen, Richard Schrock (MIT), and Jakub Hyvi (MIT) (Chemistry Department with MIT inventors).

In addition, OTTL, with guidance from the Office of General Counsel, is now working to support faculty in reviewing and understanding the intellectual property terms of consulting agreements. We hope to protect the University's intellectual property and make faculty more aware of the value of their own intellectual property through conversations exploring their contributions to the parties they are consulting with.

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

Michael Hause, Patricia Doherty, Institute for Scientific Research, "Space Chemistry, Reactivity and Modeling (SCRAM)." Air Force Research Laboratory.

Keith Groves, Institute for Scientific Research, "AtmoSpheric Electromagnetic Emissions Receiver (AtmoSEER)." Physical Sciences Incorporated.

RECOMMENDED READING

Andy Boynton, the John and Linda Powers Family Dean of the BC Carroll School of Management, recently authored a piece, **"A Form of Optimism about the Human Condition: Why we do research, and why it matters to our teaching and our students."** Boynton writes about the importance of research and innovation as a source of inspiration and motivation for students, faculty, and society.

RESOURCES FOR RESEARCHERS



BC has become an Institutional Member of the **National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity**, which provides online career development resources for faculty, post-docs, and graduate students. **Learn more about how to claim your membership.**

iThenticate helps researchers and publishers check the originality of unpublished written work by comparing manuscripts against an extensive database of journals, books, magazines, periodicals, and websites. This software is available to faculty and professional and graduate students. To sign up please contact **Caroline Webb**.

Boston College
Office of the Vice Provost for Research

Boston College VPR Office | [270 Hammond St., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467](#)

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Caroline Webb <caroline.ec.webb@gmail.com>
To: cwebb@aeronaut.net

Mon, Feb 28, 2022 at 9:16 PM

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Caroline Webb
Email: caroline.ec.webb@gmail.com
Phone: (857) 209-0405