

The VPAA expects the SWG to complete its work by early next spring and to then hand its work off to the SFTF, which will formulate a proposal, to be presented to the college's Board of Trustees in May 2012, reimagining the college's science facilities for the future. Such a proposal may include the renovation or remodeling of existing facilities and/or plans for a new facility. (Last year, the Board of Trustees heard a presentation on this topic from a representative of an external planning firm; see Faculty Meeting minutes of 3/4/11.)

The FEC and VPAA discussed various procedural questions. The FEC chair drew the committee's attention to the consultation process for committee and subcommittee appointments described in section IV.A.C.1 of the FEC operating code, which describes the annual Round IV "Willingness-to-Serve" process; she also shared some further email communication between herself and the VPAA.

The VPAA would like the SFTF to begin its work in the near future. Since the FEC has not yet received a written charge for the SFTF, the VPAA described, in broad strokes, a provisional charge, envisioning that the SFTF would sunset after presenting its proposal to the trustees next May. It was noted that significant renovations or additions to the college's physical plant are always a major institutional step; lessons, both positive and salutary, were learned during the recent construction of the music building, and renovation of the art building and the Filene building. Science faculty have the greatest stake in the SFTF initiative, but it is inevitable that members of other departments will also be affected. A variety of ad hoc groups are currently working on science-related initiatives betn of the e

constraints, the FEC was not able to discuss this issue but agreed to continue their discussion by email, because CEPP would like to constitute this sub-committee in the near future.

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