

COMCIL CONVENES EMERGENCY MEETING TO ADDRESS NEW POSITION

by Kijin Higashibaba '16

Community Council (ComCil) convened an emergency session on Friday to discuss concerns and implications of the newly announced position of Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success, a combined role of Dean of Community Life and Dean of Admissions.

This has raised serious concerns in the community that Antioch is moving toward de-emphasizing the community in Antioch's three C's, Classroom, Community, and Co-op.

"The loss of the Dean of Community Life disconnects the sense, the idea, and the practice of shared governance," said Michael Casselli, assistant professor of sculpture and faculty representative on ComCil.

Another major concern is the loss of the Dean of Community Life as the liaison between ComCil and higher administration. "To not have that role at all we essentially don't have any power or

legitimacy left," said Sara Goldstein '16 at the meeting on Friday.

"Historically ComCil has had struggles being seen as a body of power," said ComCil President Ida Lease Cummings '16. "I feel like it's important to be involved in this... because this will ensure that student will have power. We do have power currently and this is a way to practice that power."

On Dec. 9 Luis Rosa, dean of community life, announced he would be leaving to take a position at Marlboro College in Vermont. This will be effective Jan. 6. The presidential office announced the current Assistant Dean of Admissions Harold Wingood will serve as Interim Vice President for Enrollment and Student Success for a period of four to six months. After that time the president's office said they would reassess the dean's position with new president Thomas Manley and Community Life Staff.

"This move is aligned with one of the

College's strategic priorities for Fiscal Year 2016—to develop a comprehensive enrollment management plan," said the Office of the President in the announcement. "It also encourages synergy between the students we recruit and the resources provided to support their development."

The decision was made by the recently formed Executive Council, a body of administrators handling the presidential transition. Community Council (ComCil) invited Interim President and Vice President of Finance and Operations, Andi Adkins to speak about the change.

"I am asking for your support on this," said Adkins. She added that Wingood has the experience needed to fill this position and this was only a temporary solution; his contract ends at the end of June.

Antioch College has been in a similar position before. On April 15, 2014 President

Mark Roosevelt announced several strategic changes, including in Community Life. With the resignation of Louise Smith, Roosevelt that the dean's position would be reclassified as a Vice President for Student Success, with responsibility for admissions, financial aid, community life, residence life, and student success advising.

After protest from Community Life staff, the idea of a Vice President for Student Success was set aside and Luis Rosa was hired in early 2015. "We are essentially in the same spot because we are talking about shifting resources away from supporting students. And that's my concern," said Nick Daily, resident life coordinator.

Community Council is in the process of contacting Thomas Manley, the Executive Council, and Adkins to express its concerns. It is also reaching out to Alumni, Students, and Student Union for support.

IN DEFENSE OF THE THREE C'S

by The Record Editorial Staff

We, the editorial staff of The Record, believe the decision to consolidate the Dean of Community Life and Dean of Admissions into one position, Vice President of Enrollment and Student Success, deeply undermines Antiochian values. Any decision which has such wide reaching impact that is made without consultation constitutes an infraction on community governance and values. Furthermore, the editors have seen many articles that surround the functioning of Community Life and feel that through

these accounts and narratives, it is clear that the department of Community Life must not be brushed aside as solely a connection to retention rate and 'student success'. To believe that this decision would help the college achieve "a comprehensive enrollment management plan", as stated in the announcement by the Office of the President, would be nothing short of misguided. An effective Community Life department is integral to the success of Antioch, and the responsibilities for admissions, community life, residence life, and student success advising should not and cannot fall under one role.



Administrative Council meeting, Winter 1969. Pictured is a discussion of the following year's budget, led by president Jim Dixon (pipe in hand). Photo by Record staff photographer Bill Holderith '70. Courtesy of Antiochiana.



ComCil gathers in South Hall for an emergency meeting on Friday, Nick Daily joined. Photo credit: Kijin Higashibaba '16