

COMMITTEE:	Board of Governors
MEETING:	June 29 th , 2017
ORIGINATOR:	Community Relations and Advancement Committee
ITEM:	6.1 – Talk Exchange Report

I. INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE

Carleton students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors sat down together in the MacOdrum Library on March 20/17 to talk about the university’s “collective ambition for the next 75 years”, and about “the shorter-term legacy they want to build for future generations”.

This initiative, the first ever “talk exchange” organized by the Board of Governors’ Community Relations and Advancement (CRA) committee, provided an alternative forum — beyond the formal board and senior administration structure — for a cross-section of stakeholders to engage in an open and honest discussion among themselves, about Carleton’s future, and to strengthen the board’s connections to its’ communities.

Five volunteers from the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities sat at each table, and their notes have been compiled into a report that will be posted on the Board of Governors website along with the evaluation.

Total Number of Participants: 24

- Six students, from Political Science, Earth Sciences, Human Rights/ Law, Political Science /Human Rights, Economics, Psychology/Law, Industrial Design, Linguistics, Business.
- Four faculty, from Engineering, School for Studies in Art & Culture, Psychology, Library, Geography & Environmental Studies, School for Studies in Art & Culture
- Nine staff, from the Student Experience Office, Library, Facilities Management & Planning, University Communications, Faculty of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, University Research Office, Strategic Initiatives, Housing, University Advancement, CUASA, Library, Registrarial Services
- Four alumni and one donor

Please note that many participants identified with 2 or 3 communities. (e.g. staff who were also alumni and/or donors)

II. KEY FINDINGS

The Talk Exchange participants expressed a strong desire to have more opportunities for constructive conversations within the university community and the board.

The two themes of “Relationship Building/Reputation Management” and “Governance” dominated the feedback. Both themes relate to the mandate of the CR&A Committee, ie. Engaging with its’ communities and building relationships.

Governance - The emphasis was on being transparent and accountable, for and to all stakeholders; and students consistently emphasized their desire to feel “listened to” and “cared about”.

Relationship Building and Reputation Management – The aspiration is that the nurturing environment that is Carleton is never diminished, and “all” should feel included.

III. RECOMMENDATION

Recommend to the Board to continue the engagement exercise and that a plan from the Community Relations and Advancement Committee be prepared for board consideration including a proposed mandate for the Talk Exchange, the frequency of the gatherings, potential topics, and how actionable suggestions will be dealt with.