

A Fresh Look at Undergraduate Life

President Lawrence S. Bacow has appointed a Task Force on the Undergraduate Experience, a committee that will look at how the University integrates life inside and outside of the classroom.

Gilbert Metcalf, professor of economics, has been named chair. Co-chairs are Kristine Dillon, dean of academic services and student affairs, and Charles Inouye, dean of the College of Undergraduate Education. Faculty members are James Glaser, political science; Karen Panetta, electrical engineering; Maryanne Wolf, child development; Lee Edelman, English; and Francis Chew, biology. Three student representatives are Charline Han, Rachel Rubenson and James Blockwood.

Bacow said the time was right to "take a fresh look" at undergraduate education at a faculty meeting in October.

"One of the great things about Tufts is that we have made enormous progress in the last 15 to 20 years, from being a good regional university to becoming a university of the first rank," Bacow said. "Yet it has been close to 20 to 25 years since we did a self-study of the undergraduate experience."

Metcalf said the task force is expected to issue its report in spring 2003. In the meantime, the group will begin their research by seeking and gathering information from students, faculty, trustees and alumni.

"We will depend on a variety of perspectives to help us form a consensus of what is distinctive about a Tufts education and what we need to add or change to ensure we continue to provide a world-class education," said Metcalf. "Our goal is to develop a sharply articulated and intentional vision of the undergraduate experience to assist in the AS&E piece of the next capital campaign."