The Alumni Council met on campus Thursday, March 5 through Saturday, March 7, 2015. President Susan Henken-Thielen ‘80 presided over the meetings which were attended by twenty-two members of the Council. The following is a brief summary of the weekend’s work:

1) Council members interacted with student leaders from the Student Alumni Council (SAC) during an intimate Thursday evening dessert reception;
2) Senior Research Associate Jennifer Krohn provided an update to the Council regarding accessibility and usability on campus. She thanked the Council for their work crafting and submitting a resolution that draws administrative attention to the opportunities for improved accessibility and usability of space in the construction and renovation of existing facilities;
3) President Raynard Kington addressed the Council and answered questions regarding three specific areas of concern related to student safety and campus climate: Title IX, Diversity and the recent Yik Yak posts, and the future of mental health services;
4) Council members participated in an interactive workshop led by Jim Reische and Jim Powers from the Office of Communication. The Council reviewed the new suite of Admission marketing materials and worked in small groups to suggest additional marketing concepts;
5) Past President Nancy Maly ‘61 led the Council in a discussion about the future of the Alumni Awards and Senior Alumni Awards programs. The discussion resulted in an approved motion to appoint an ad-hoc committee who will review the Council’s recommendations for future improvements and amendments to these programs;
6) Council members joined local alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students and friends for a Grinnell-in-Grinnell reception and dinner on Friday night in Quad dining hall;
7) Shane Jacobson, vice president for development and alumni relations, along with Mae Turley and Jackie Aanes, addressed the Council and provided updates regarding the Office of Development and Alumni Relations 2014-15 business plan and the fundraising and engagement strategies specific to the upcoming ARH and Carnegie renovation project;
8) Committee chairs Lara Szent-Gyorgi ‘89 (stewardship), Jim Decker ‘75 (communications), Angela Onwuachi-Willig ‘94 (alumni engagement), and Peter Calvert ‘79 (alumni-student connections) discussed the ongoing work of their committees to strengthen and improve alumni relations and development with the College;
9) Lilliana Bagnoli ‘15, Philanthropy Chair, and Austin Cote ‘15, President, reported on successes of the Student Alumni Council this academic year including National Philanthropy Week, I Heart GC Day, the Class Ambassador Program and the Senior Class Gift;
10) Two departing members of Council were honored for their service: Pam Rogacki ‘64 and Mark Henry ‘05;
11) Angela Onwuachi-Willig ‘94 was elected Alumni Council President Elect for 2015-16;
The Council approved a slate of four candidates for membership beginning in June 2015: J. Gof Thomson ’62, Rick Stuck ’82, Ryann Haines Cheung ’93 and Jeetander Dulani ’98.