

## Institutional Policy & Planning Committee (IPPC) Annual Report, 2016-2017

The Institutional Policy & Planning Committee advises the President of the College with regard to strategic planning, taking a comprehensive view of significant matters facing the College. In doing so, it serves as the central deliberative body for all-college governance. More specifically, IPPC advises the President on all policy areas, with primary responsibility for those areas beyond the purview of faculty governance (such as budget and financial planning, benefits, environmental issues, admissions and financial aid, student affairs, and advancement). During the 2016-2017 academic year IPPC met 14 times to consider specific matters and, subsequently present them to the full committee. Full minutes for IPPC meetings are available on the IPPC website: <http://www.skidmore.edu/ippc/minutes/>. Please refer to these meeting minutes for greater detail of the matters summarized below.

### Major Items

#### 1. Center for Integrated Sciences (CIS)

Conversation surrounding the CIS was the focus of many IPPC meetings during the 2016-2017 academic year. Nearly all matters discussed (including budget, space, resources, policies, institutional priorities, strategic trade-offs etc.) is captured in matters related to CIS. The IPPC has strongly encouraged the President and the College leadership to be transparent, forthcoming, and responsive with respect to decisions and their resulting implications related to the CIS. The College leadership has established unequivocally that the CIS is the number one priority for Skidmore College.

#### 2. Social Justice/Multicultural Center/Space

After receiving a November 4 charge from IPPC, the Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU) worked quickly on planning for a Social Justice/Multicultural Center/Space. Details regarding their work and outcomes are available in the IPPC minutes of March 24, but they included consultation with the Space Planning Working Group, Case Council, holding an open forum, touring other centers,



also reported that requests for financial aid have increased significantly as well. Applications are up from both domestic students of color and international students.

#### 8. Building Plans - Athletics Master Plan; Admissions; Residential Life Program

The IPPC discussed several building plans including the Athletics Master Plan, Admissions, and the Residential Life Program, in addition to the CIS, the current priority in terms of buildings and capital spending. The College leadership will continue to look for opportunities to move forward on these projects as they continue establishing priorities and obtain targeted funding, which may make a specific project or segment of a certain project more feasible and sensible.

#### 9. Campus Sustainability

Director of Sustainability Karen Kellogg and Campus Sustainability Coordinator Levi Rogers presented the 2015-2016 annual report of progress in implementing the Campus Sustainability Plan. Karen Kellogg noted the improvement in



aspirant listings a few times during the 2016-2017 academic year. Joe Stankovich served as the resident expert in terms of providing documentation and historical context during these conversations. Frequent comments centered on attempting to understand the unintentional consequences of revising the lists as well as attending the need to have balanced lists in terms of the numbers, types and range of institutions. The IPPC charged Joshua Woodfork and Joe Stankovich to develop next steps, including consultation with FEC. It was decided that these efforts would not be conducted until the next academic year.

## 18. Discussion of IPPC Roles and Responsibilities

Members of IPPC discussed their responsibilities on the committee, level of accountability to various persons and the degree to which IPPC members directly represent the bodies from which they were elected or appointed to IPPC early in the academic year. Committee members were reminded that agenda items can be sourced from any member of the committee.

## 19. Policy Discussions & Other Matters

### A. Reviewed Policy on Political Activity & Standards of Business Conduct (Oct. 14, 2016)

The IPPC reviewed the policies on Political Activity & Standards of Business Conduct given its significant role in the development and continuance of these policies. The policies were distributed to the campus community and posted on the website.

### B. Diversity and Inclusion at Skidmore College Statement

As noted above, the IPPC affirmed statement on November 18, 2016. The affirmation followed an extensive discussion regarding the perceived state of diversity and inclusion at the College. All members of IPPC were encouraged to contribute to a conversation that proved to be informative and enlightening.

### C. Skidmore Declining Balance Card

Michael West reported that the College will reduce the minimum deposit required when adding funds to a SkidCard using a credit card from \$25.00 to \$15.00. The decision was a response to a request from the People of Color Union (POCU) and the Student Government Association (SGA).

### D. Protection of Minors

Chris Kacmarek, Chair of the Safety Committee, presented the IPPC a draft version of a Protection of Minors policy. The draft policy includes requirements for training and background checks for all students, faculty and staff interacting with minors. The IPPC asked Chris a series of questions. The questions and her responses can be found in IPPC minutes dated February 17, 2017. The IPPC asked Chris and the committee members to respond to the various questions and bring a revised policy back to the IPPC for further consideration.

#### E. Test Optional Policy Immediate Impacts (Tentative Thoughts)

Mary Lou Bates suggested that the decision to change admissions policy to test optional may have resulted in a higher number of total applications with more applications from students of color.

#### F. Smoking Policy

Several members of the Skidmore Community inquired about the Smoking Policy. Cerri Banks and other IPPC members informed persons that discussions regarding the smoking policy will take place in Fall 2017. Further, persons were reminded of the need for the smoking issue to be addressed and resolved at the institutional-level while meeting the needs and desires of multiple stakeholders with varied interests.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip A. Glotzbach, Chair

Timothy L. Harper, Vice Chair

## IPPC Committee Membership for 2016-2017

Philip Glotzbach, President, Chair

Timothy Harper, Management and Business, Faculty Member, Vice Chair

Michael West, Vice President for Finance & Administration

Michael T. Casey, Collyer Vice President for Advancement

Mary Lou Bates, Vice President and Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid

Beau Breslin, Dean of the Faculty and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Paul Calhoun, Dean of Special Programs

Cerri A. Banks, Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs

Debra Townsend, Interim Vice President for Communications and Marketing

Joshua C. Woodfork, Vice President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity

Joseph Stankovich, Director of Institutional Research

Bill Duffy, Chief Technology Officer

Denise Smith, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)

Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Chair, Committee on Educational Policies & Planning (CEPP)

Cynthia Evans, Co-Chair, Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU)

Eric Morser, Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship (SRC)

Levi Rogers, Chair, Campus Sustainability Subcommittee (CSS)

Kris Leggiero, Office of Leadership Activities, Non-Exempt Staff Member

Lisa Hobbs, Off-Campus Study & Exchanges, Exempt Staff Member

Joerg Bibow, Economics, Faculty Member (1-yr LV 2016-17)

Mark Hofmann, Mathematics, Faculty Member (1-yr 16-17 replacement for Bibow)

Jim Kennelly, Management and Business, Faculty Member

Dorothy Parsons , Student Government President



Timothy Harper, Management and Business, Faculty Member

Grace Burton, World Languages and Literatures, Faculty Member

Taylor Salvatore '18, Student Government Association President

Kira Geary '18, Student Government Association Vice President for Financial Affairs