

## Committee on Admissions and Student Aid (CASA)

### Annual Report 2000-2001

The Committee on Admissions and Student Aid met six times during the 2000-1 academic year. In addition to hearing reports from Mary Lou Bates on admissions and Bob Shorb on student aid, the committee considered issues including how to best maximize its own usefulness as a channel of communication between the Admissions and Student Aid offices and the college as a whole. We also discussed the difficulties which non-experts experience when dealing with the numerous procedures and statistics surrounding these operations. To partially address this latter problem, the commitment was made to produce a "Handbook on Admissions and Student Aid" in the near future.

The bulk of the committee's time this year, however, was devoted to the important process of strategic planning. Three full meetings and portions of others were largely given over to those discussions. Included below are the final recommendation to President Studley from the committee:

In support of Goal 2: Strengthen the spirit and experience of community and diversity:

**Overarching Objective:** Greatly enhance the college's ability to provide need-based financial aid packages that are competitive with those of our peer institutions. In the view of our committee, increasing need-based aid to make Skidmore affordable to as broad a range of potential students as possible is the single most critical step towards strengthening the academic excellence and diversity of our community.

**Related Important Objectives:**

1. Develop the financial resources to make all admissions decisions without regard to financial need (i.e., "need blind admissions").
2. Expand the merit aid program, but not at the expense of increasing need-based financial aid.
3. Have the resources to address retention by reevaluating financial aid packages (both need-based and merit) of current students based on their academic achievement at Skidmore.
4. Create more academically oriented work-study opportunities. (Note: This objective certainly supports Goals 1 and 3 as well.)
5. Keep annual tuition increases in line with our peer institutions, being careful not to be a "leader" in increases or in high tuition.
6. Create a limited financial aid budget to attract outstanding international students.

2000-2001 membership:

Mary Lou Bates,  
Ruth Battaglia '01  
Sandy Baum (spring)  
Catherine Bookhout '03  
Gove Effinger (chair spring)  
Denise Evert (fall, chair fall)  
Victor Gonzales (spring)  
Kate Leavitt  
Sue Layden (fall)  
Tina Levith  
Mike Megeurdichian '02,  
Bob Shorb,  
John Young

## CASA Membership 2001-2002

Mary Lou Bates

Sandy Baum

Denise Evert

Kate Leavitt (chair)

Sue Layden

Tina Levith

Bob Shorb

John Young

3 students to be named by SGA