Committee on Admissions and Student Aid (CASA)
Annual Report 2004-2005

The Committee on Admissions and Student Aid met 6 times during the 2004-2005 academic year. In addition the committee hosted an informational meeting on admissions and financial aid for faculty/staff with children applying to Skidmore or other colleges. The committee received monthly reports on admissions and student aid from Mary Lou Bates and Bob Shorb. The most critical item on the Committee's agenda this year was the CFG recommendation and faculty vote on the committee system that will result in the elimination of CASA beginning in the fall of 2005. The Committee met with a representative of CFG, Tim Burns, to discuss the implications of the demise of CASA and to how to best forward our recommendations on this issue. The committee is concerned that certain committee functions that have been mandated to occur be subsumed by other governance or administrative bodies. Specifically:

1. The Athletic Review Committee of 2002 established an Athletic Admissions Policy and charged CASA with monitoring the success and/or effects of the policy. The Committee notes that Athletic Council is also charged with monitoring this policy and so that committee should continue to keep an eye on the progress of students admitted under the policy and the policy's effectiveness.

2. Under current practice if a family wants to appeal their financial aid award they are instructed to appeal to CASA. The Committee approved a policy change of appeals being directed to the Director of Student Aid and Family Finance and then to the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, if necessary.

3. The committee notes that there are some very pressing issues on the horizon in terms of admissions and financial aid, such as the role of SAT scores in admissions and the awarding of financial aid to international students. In order to properly process these issues the Committee strongly recommends that there be a standing subcommittee of IPPC, a Sub Committee on Enrollment. CASA recommends that the subcommittee consist of the Dean of Students, the Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, a faculty member and an academic administrator.

Other issues considered during the academic year were as follows:

1. The Committee invited Athletic Director, Jeff Segrave and Dean of Studies to discuss the Athletic Admission Policy. While the athletic department and admissions felt that in general the policy was working well in terms of the recruitment of athletes, the Dean of Studies office noted a growing concern with the academic performance of athletes. The Committee discussed whether or not there should be a formal program to offer support services to athletes.

2. The Committee considered the report from the ad hoc Committee on Retention that was produced in the last academic year. In particular the Committee discussed the question of what kind of support should the College be providing to ESL/non HEOP students.

3. The Committee decided that a "Statement of Support", that Skidmore provide support to "special populations" (which may include ESL/non HEOP students, recruited athletes or others) should come from CASA. The Chair of the Committee drafted a letter to President Glotzbach recommending additional support.

4. The Committee discussed the issue of the role of the SAT in the admissions process and the Retention Committee's discussions on making the SAT optional. Since the format of the SAT is changing in the spring of 2005 the Committee was unwilling to make a recommendation on modifying the College's existing policy requiring SATs. However, given the fact that CASA will cease to function after Spring 2005, the committee is very concerned that there continue to be a forum to address this issues as well as others.

2004-2005 Membership

Mary Lou Bates, Dean of Admissions and Student Aid
Bob Shorb, Director of Student Aid and Family Finance
John Young, Director of Admissions
Mark Hofmann (chair), Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Alice Dean, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science
Pat Fehling, Department of Exercise Science
Christina Levith, Associate Director, Dean of Studies (ex-officio)
Sue Layden, Director of Higher Education Opportunity Program (ex-officio)
Ashley Morrison ‘06

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Hofmann
2004-2005 Chair