

**Committee on Educational Policies & Planning (CEPP)**  
**Motions**  
**Faculty Meeting – September 8, 2006**

**Motion:** CEPP moves that the faculty establish an affiliation with the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) in Beijing for the Skidmore in Beijing Program.

**Rationale:** This motion comes to CEPP from the Beijing Steering Committee and Cori Filson, Director of International Programs. The rationale is as follows:

For the past three years Skidmore's program in China has been hosted by Beijing University. While the program at Beijing University has been largely successful, the College is unable to maintain that affiliation. As the Beijing Steering Committee investigated alternative options, it discovered that IES was able to provide a customized program, similar to that which we already maintain for our First-Year Experience in London. Through IES, Skidmore is able to develop a unique program that takes into account our academic and administrative needs in Beijing. Partnering with IES will allow us not only to maintain a program in Beijing that is financially feasible, but which also offers several enhancements to our current Beijing program. These enhancements include:

- *Increased control over the curriculum.* IES will work closely with the College to ensure that courses and instructors meet Skidmore's standards for quality. (Currently, Beijing University controls the courses and instructors).
- *Increased variety of content courses.* Students will be able to choose from 5 to 7 content courses covering business, economics, government, literature, art, science, and more. (Currently, the students have no choice in content courses).
- *Expanded fieldwork opportunities.* IES will be able to offer a wider variety of fieldwork options while also developing a fieldwork course that more closely matches our specifications.
- *Individual tutors for both the language course and fieldwork course.* Students will be paired with two distinct tutors to assist them with their language acquisition, and with the work on their research projects. The steering committee believes that this offers students more opportunity to interact directly with their Chinese peers. (Currently, students are permitted to work with one individual tutor for their fieldwork project, but are not required to do so).
- *Housing options with Chinese students or families.* Skidmore students will have the opportunity to live with Chinese roommates or Chinese families. (Currently, they live with fellow Skidmore students, other students from American colleges and universities, and/or other international students).
- *Significant opportunities for Skidmore faculty.* Every third year, the program will host a Skidmore faculty director who will teach one China-related course. During the years in which there is no faculty director in Beijing, we can imagine sending delegations to and from Beijing to encourage educational exchange among faculty.