Committee of Committees Report  
Thursday, December 13, 12 noon-2:00

In attendance: Erica Bastress-Dukehart, IPPC Vice-Chair; Mark Hofmann, CAPT Chair; Mary Lynn, CAFR Chair; Alice Dean, FDC Chair; Sylvia Franke McDevitt, CC Chair; Katie Hauser, CAS Chair; Charlene Grant, SRC member; Linda Hall, AC Chair; April Bernard, Barbara Black, Mehmet Odekon, and Paul Sattler, FEC members.

The Faculty Development Committee (FDC) reports excellent interactions with the administration, and acknowledges that Paty Rubio and Bill Tomlinson, who sit on FDC, are very helpful to the committee’s deliberations. The committee chair notes that, except for herself, FDC comprises all new members.

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR) largely conducts work that is confidential; however, the chair is able to report that, as of the C of C meeting, no cases had come to them. They are busy tweaking some college policies.

The Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship (SRC) is working on defining “civic engagement” and moving the college forward on the strategic goal of global citizenship for all Skidmore students. It was asked of the SRC to explain its relationship to the AVD Director and the civic engagement fellows, in order to gain greater clarity on work flow and org chart.

The Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) has been busy with the work that typically concerns them on a weekly basis. They report excellent relationships with other committees (particularly with CEPP and CC) and especially useful interactions with Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Policy and Advising Corey Freeman-Gallant. As a committee empowered to make policy, CAS is currently busy with policy that would allow for 300-level courses to fulfill, in a consistent way, the Breadth Requirement. Additionally, they are working on making the process of transfer credit for study abroad consistent, out of fairness to students. The CAS has recently updated its operating code, including a course substitution policy for all-college requirements—a policy on which the committee has sought legal consultation. Course accommodations, summer courses and GPAs, and instituting a possible deadline for medical leaves are just some of the other issues that have been on their agenda. The room notes that the current chair of CAS is in her second year as chair; some wonder if faculty are reluctant to serve as committee chairs.

The Committee on Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure (CAPT) is in the midst of a busy year. Along with their routine but very demanding work, they are continuing discussion of teaching evaluations. They have felt that their involvement in the DOF/VPAA search was substantive, and they appreciated how their input was solicited. They report very positive interactions as well as excellent communication with both the President and the Associate Dean of the Faculty for Personnel and Diversity. The CAPT chair acknowledges that he attended one meeting with DOF/VPAA Breslin and ADOF Rubio regarding Faculty Handbook language regarding promotion. At that meeting, the Director of Faculty Development Erica Bastress-Dukehart and the FEC Chair were also in attendance.
The Curriculum Committee (CC) has been working on revising their operating code. Recently, the committee and FEC successfully brought a motion to the floor of the faculty on *Handbook* language regarding the establishment and elimination of minors at the college. The CC continues its regular work on course approvals, and indicates that it is currently working on two new proposed minors at the college. The CC chair was asked to explain the reasons for the separation of the Self-Determined Majors Subcommittee from the CC. The FEC chair points out that *Handbook* language will need to be voted on to reflect this change, and that the following sequence would have been the preferable sequence: language change first, then followed by governance structural change. FEC will bring the motion to the floor of the faculty at the next faculty meeting.

The Athletic Council (AC) does not meet as often as do many committees, but they report that the outside review of Title Nine at Skidmore went well, and they cited the recent “Shades of Gray” discussion about perception and athletics at Skidmore. A standard agenda item for the committee is to review the admissions report. This spring, they will be working with Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun on plans for a new athletic facility.

The Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC) reports an excellent working relationship with the administration, and they are eager to welcome the FEC chair as a new member of the committee. The Assessment Subcommittee chair will also join IPPC. Matters on the IPPC agenda this fall have included the Policy on Policies, recharging the Space Planning Working Group, and being updated on the new website design and the science building initiative. In the spring, IPPC’s focus will turn to budget, the Conflict of Interest Policy, the Business Conduct Policy, as well as the Whistleblower Policy. IPPC is quite sad to lose the invaluable assistance and wisdom of Barbara Krause, but they wish her well in her new position.

The Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) reports it is having an excellent year, with productive working relations with both the President and the DOF/VPAA as well as with all committees with which it has interacted. It also reports very positive interactions with the new Board Chair Linda Toohey, who is eager to strengthen working relations between the Board and the Faculty. This semester, FEC ran its two regular rounds and a special WTS. FEC is currently assisting the President and the DOF/VPAA with plans for the January 18 Academic Summit. Throughout the semester, FEC has made certain that Faculty Meetings are run according to the new bye-laws and recommendations passed by the faculty in the spring. It has been the view of FEC that Committees of the Whole have been particularly invaluable and will continue to be a regular, frequent part of faculty meetings. FEC also assisted the DOF/VPAA in assembling this year’s Chairs Advisory Board.

The Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) was not in attendance but later reported to the FEC Chair that all is good but very busy on the committee.

In sum, this year seems to be a productive, smoothly functioning year for faculty governance. The Faculty Executive Committee wishes to thank the people in attendance at the lunch meeting and their committee colleagues for the invaluable work they do on behalf of us all.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Black, (Chair of FEC)