

DRAFT

**INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 3, 2006**

PRESENT: President Philip Glotzbach, Chair; Professor Mark Huibregtse, Vice Chair; Susan Kress, Michael West, Michael Casey, Pat Oles, Muriel Poston, Ann Henderson, Beau Breslin, Mehmet Odekon, Bill Lewis, Barbara McDonough, John Chaplin, Dan Moran, Kelly Carr; Sue Van Hook and Justin Sipher (regular guests); and Barbara Krause (Secretary).

ABSENT: Mary Lou Bates.

President Glotzbach called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. Review of minutes.

Minutes of the October 20, 2006 meeting were **approved** with minor corrections.

2. Report on Board of Trustee Meetings.

President Glotzbach reported the following from Board of Trustee meetings held on October 25-27, 2006:

- The focus of these meetings was a Board retreat, during which the Board reviewed its own practices and performance. The President reported an excellent series of discussions.
- The Board received an update on the Campus Plan. While some members expressed concern about parking capacity at the proposed Zankel Music Building, the Board voted to accept the principles and framework of the plan. The Board further voted to implement the plan as circumstances and need warrant and as resources allow.
- The Board approved \$125,000 for preliminary work to study the replacement of Scribner Village.
- The Board approved \$880,000 for the construction drawing phase of the Zankel Music Building. Construction of the building is estimated in the range of \$32 million.
- The Moore Hall closing date has been pushed back to early spring due to negotiations between the prospective buyer and the City.
- Professor Tillman Nechtman made a wonderful presentation to the Board, leading them through a discussion of the First Year Experience reading assignment, *Life on the Color Line*.

- Four trustee members participated in a very engaging panel discussion entitled “How Does the World Look Today and How Will It Affect the Future of Skidmore?”
- Trustees expressed interest in mapping out an academic plan comparable to the strategic planning for facilities.
- The Board welcomed two new members: Steve Sullivan, a local Saratoga Springs businessman, and Robert Weisbuch, President of Drew University.

3. Update on North Woods.

Sue Van Hook reported that she has been working with Mike West and Michael Casey to update the North Woods brochure. Before it goes to print, she wanted to review with IPPC some changes reflected in the new materials.

The new materials include the same map that is presented in the Campus Plan. The map designates three areas and indicates permitted and prohibited uses:

(1) Education and Research: no dogs or bikes allowed; people to stay on marked trails;

(2) Recreation: dogs allowed on leashes; no bikes; educational purposes would still take precedence in this area, but other limited use also permitted.

(3) Mediation: walking by people only; no dogs, bikes, snowshoeing, etc.

The policy up to now has been to allow bikes on certain trails during good weather. The new guidelines would limit bike usage further due to erosion and disruption of educational projects that has occurred.

It was suggested that the name of the second category be changed to “Education and Recreation” to reflect the concept that in this area as well as the Education and Research area, educational uses have priority.

The usage revisions do not establish any area as “protected forever,” but they do more clearly indicate the College’s intent to preserve the North Woods for educational purposes.

Voted unanimously to support the proposed North Woods area designations, including the limits on dogs and bike usage. IPPC and President Glotzbach expressed appreciation to the Campus Environment Committee in general and to Sue Van Hook in particular, as well as to Mike West and his Facilities group, for their good work on this issue.

4. Update from the Intercultural and Global Understanding Task Force.

President Glotzbach reminded the group that the Intercultural and Global Understanding Task Force (IGUTF) was created to advise the President and the College on implementation of Goal Two of the Strategic Plan. IGUTF's activities to date include advising on the creation of the three diversity-related positions (administrative, student, and faculty), advising during the Middle States review, considering work initiated by Dean Pat Oles last summer related to bias incident response and recommending creation of a Bias Response Group, advising on an Inclusive Hiring Workshop organized by Dean Muriel Poston and Assistant Director for EEO Herb Crossman, and sending members to national conferences to bring back best practices and new ideas to Skidmore. Most recently, the IGUTF issued a "Call for Diversity Related Activities" and will follow up on that effort with a Request for Proposals, funded by President's Discretionary Fund monies, to introduce new ideas to the campus.

Related to this conversation, updates on searches for the positions of Director of Intercultural Studies and Director of Student Diversity Programs were provided.

The IGUTF was originally created with a three-year term. It will be evaluated at the end of the current academic year (year two).

5. Update from Student Affairs Subcommittee.

SAS has taken up the question of Spa and Case programming. The group understands that until the Atrium in Murray-Aikens Dining Hall is fully operational, it will be difficult to assess what changes (if any) should be made in the Spa and Case Center. Nevertheless, the group is looking at current programming, what is not in place that might be, and how to retain (and improve) the vitality during night hours.

SAS has also formed a Task Force on Health and Fitness that will examine ways to enhance health and fitness opportunities for all members of the community. The Task Force is working with FEC Chair Dan Curly to identify faculty appointments.

6. Update from SGA.

SGA will sponsor a forum today (November 3) in the Spa to discuss Spa hours. President Glotzbach indicated that he welcomed this conversation as well as the larger conversation about the role of Case Center, but asked those participating to keep in mind that incredible efforts were made to re-open the Dining Hall on time this fall and that the context for these discussions will change once all aspects of the Dining Hall operations are on line.

7. Honor Code Commission.

Kelly Carr reported that an issue has been identified related to the Honor Code Commission – specifically, that membership for that group is listed differently in the Faculty and Student Handbooks. FEC had recommended that those involved in Integrity Board issues confer with the Honor Code Commission, which prompted a concern that FEC might not be fully aware of the narrow purpose of the HCC.

IPPC recommends that the HCC reflect on its membership, confer with Dean Oles and other appropriate groups (which might include SGA, FEC, and the Dean of Studies), and bring the issue back to IPPC if changes in membership of HCC are recommended.

Minutes submitted by Barbara Krause, Secretary. Please notify of any corrections.