

**INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 5, 2010**

PRESENT: President Philip Glotzbach, Chair; Professor Adrienne Zuerner, Vice Chair; Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Mary Lou Bates, Rochelle Calhoun, Michael Casey, Winston Grady-Willis, Ann Henderson, Susan Kress, Muriel Poston, Jeff Segrave, Justin Sipher, Mary Cogan, Susan Bender, Raina Bretan, James Welsh, Hugh Foley, and Anne Petruzzelli.

ABSENT: Michael West and Kim Marsella.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the February 19, 2010 meeting were approved with one minor correction.

**2. Report on Board of Trustees Meeting**

President Glotzbach reported to the group on the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees. He noted that the budget parameters as presented at the previous IPPC meeting had been tentatively approved by the Board and would be finalized at the May meeting.

Dean Calhoun reported on the presentation made by QPK on the preliminary planning for the replacement of Scribner Village. She noted that the Trustees had asked that we consider alternate sites for the health and wellness center being envisioned as part of this project and to look at the size, number, and distribution of social spaces in the new residence halls as their seemed to be fewer than might be needed, and, finally, that we revisit the types of rooming arrangements to ensure that we have the best mix.

She indicated that we anticipate coming back to the Board and IPPC with revised plans in May with the hope of gaining approval to move to the next step of design.

President Glotzbach reported on the discussion on the draft of the “Strategic Renewal” planning document at the meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee, which focused largely on the key distinguishing characteristics of a Skidmore education. He noted that he plans to integrate the findings from both the on- and off-campus town hall meetings into the next iteration of this document. He will then bring the new draft to President’s Cabinet, IPPC, and the Board for further review.

There was a discussion of the larger wave of unrest on other campuses around the issues of access and affordability, particularly in California, and the question was raised as to whether we should take these up in a campus forum. The general consensus was that this was not warranted at this time.

Dean Calhoun reported on the discussions at the Student Affairs Committee revolving around the transition from first to second year and second to third year. The conversation there centered on data from the 2003 administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement

(NSSE), which indicated a somewhat lower level of satisfaction from FY respondents as compared with FY students at peer institutions. She noted that this information, along with troubling levels of retention from first to second year, were influential factors in the creation of the First-Year Experience. The subsequent administration of NSSE in 2007 showed positive movement, with Skidmore's results more like our peers'. Work on the sophomore year experiences of our students has led us to begin programming around the transitions that students experience in their second year of college. NSSE is being administered again this spring.

Dean Segrave reported on the discussion at Special Programs, which focused on a consideration of the mission statement for that group and whether, in light of the decision to end UWW and its move to Academic Affairs, it should be revised. He indicated that he expected to come back at some point to IPPC with a revised mission statement.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Kress noted that the Board took action on a number of tenure and promotion cases, all of which were approved and which would be announced at the faculty meeting later that day. She added that the Board had also accepted the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook and reviewed the steps being taken within Academic Affairs to respond to the budget situation and how we might, even in the face of increasingly constrained resources, continue to invest in those programs that enhance our distinctiveness.

### **3. FEC Request to Review IPPC Membership**

President Glotzbach initiated a conversation regarding the structure of IPPC. This was in response to FEC's request that all committees look to see if they could reduce faculty membership by 30%. This led to a conversation about IPPC's mission and recent history and the roles and responsibilities of its various subcommittees. The group eventually reached consensus that it was not prudent at this time to reduce the size of the committee or its composition. Members felt that IPPC provided a unique forum for the voices of all the key campus constituencies to come together and be heard around issues of central importance to the College.

There was also a good discussion of the nature of faculty membership, i.e., whether faculty representatives were expected to serve as the eyes and ears of the faculty at these meetings (No) or simply through their participation to add a faculty voice to these conversations (Yes). In considering this question, it was noted that the concept of "reporting out" on conversations held in IPPC was problematic as much of the material discussed was confidential. It was felt, however, that having these conversations coupled with the knowledge that we did share confidential material with the group, did help to validate certain decisions across the campus.

Vice Chair Zuerner agreed to report back to FEC on our discussion and to convey our decision.

### **4. Update on SGA Activities**

Mr. Welsh reported that SGA was working to reduce its budget surplus by considering a number of new investments. Most significant would be the creation of a paid internship program that would provide up to 30 internships each year for the next five years. These would be given

to students to intern in areas that typically did not provide paid internships with preference for those who needed to earn money in the summer to pay for their education at Skidmore. Details were to be finalized later this month.

*Minutes prepared by Michael Casey. Please notify Barbara Krause of any changes.*