

**INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 9, 2010**

PRESENT: President Philip Glotzbach, Chair; Professor Adrienne Zuerner, Vice Chair; Erica Bastress-Dukehart, Rochelle Calhoun (via teleconference), Winston Grady-Willis, Ann Henderson, Kim Marsella, Muriel Poston, Jeff Segrave, Justin Sipher, Michael West, Mary Cogan, Susan Bender, Raina Bretan, James Welsh, Hugh Foley, and Anne Petruzzelli. Guests: David Karp and Paty Rubio.

ABSENT: Mary Lou Bates, Michael Casey, and Susan Kress.

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the March 26, 2010 meeting were approved as distributed.

**2. Responsible Citizenship Task Force**

Interim Associate Dean of Student Affairs David Karp and Associate Dean of the Faculty Paty Rubio attended the meeting to report on the work of the Responsible Citizenship Task Force. A report from that group was distributed in advance of the meeting. The RCTF is pleased with the progress made but believes that additional work remains to advance Goal III of the *Strategic Plan*. Members of the RCTF recommend unanimously that the group continue for an additional year and be evaluated again at that time.

Questions and comments included the following:

- Part of the RCTF's work in the coming year would be to recommend a structure for doing this work going forward. The recommendation could be to establish an IPPC subcommittee analogous to the Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding, or it could take some other approach. That recommendation would be forwarded next year to the Cabinet, the President, and IPPC.
- The RCTF has used a grant from the Presidential Discretionary Fund (PDF) to support various projects to advance Goal III. Of the \$50,000 original two-year allocation, about \$18,000 remains. The RCTF would expend those funds in the coming year and could request an additional amount. A list of projects funded by the PDF grant will be distributed.
- It was noted that if this work is to be institutionalized, it will need to be reflected in future operating budgets.

**Members of IPPC expressed unanimous support for the recommendation that the RCTF be extended through 2010-11.**

**3. Facilities Updates**

*SPA/Burgess Study:* Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun reported that the President and Cabinet have recommended a comprehensive review of the food-service functions, programming, space, and functionality of Case Center. The work would be at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.

This work would focus on Case Center and not Ladd Hall. The eatery spaces and services (including hours of operation, location, food service options, impact on Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, etc.) are important considerations. The President and Cabinet have primary responsibility for deciding on the priority of facilities projects, in consultation with IPPC (including its Budget & Finance Subcommittee) and, where appropriate, consultation with or approval by the Board of Trustees.

The Case Council will have a primary role in the review of Case Center space; students have two seats on the Council. Members also agreed that the Space Planning Working Group could have a role in these discussions, and Dean Calhoun indicated that broader community input would be sought at appropriate points in the process.

**IPPC expressed its support for the Cabinet's recommendation to conduct a comprehensive review of Case Center at a cost not to exceed \$20,000.**

*Athletics Facilities:* Dean Calhoun reported that the Athletics Department has been working to develop a comprehensive athletics facilities plan. Such a plan will identify needs, potential locations for facilities, improvements or enhancements to current facilities, and suggested phasing. Importantly, such work will help the Athletics Department to prioritize projects and provide a consistent message for conversations with potential donors.

Dean Calhoun, Vice President Mike West, Director of Athletics Gail Cummings-Danson, and Associate Director of Athletics Megan Buchanan prepared an RFP for these services and received two bids. They have confirmed the scope of services and now wish to proceed with the lower of two bids, at a cost of \$24,600, from the Albany-based firm of CHA Sports.

**IPPC expressed its support for the recommendation to proceed with development of an Athletics Facilities Master Plan consistent with the CHA proposal at a cost of \$24,600.**

*Stables and Tennis:* Following up on questions raised at the previous meeting, Dean Calhoun reported back to IPPC on safety concerns at the stables that had been identified in a memo from the Athletic Council in the spring of 2008. Dean Calhoun confirmed that questionable beams had been stabilized and that a ceiling problem (netting that trapped small animals, causing sanitation concerns) had been addressed. The stall size (10' x 10') remains an acceptable standard, although some facilities that are replacing stalls are moving to slightly larger spaces (10' x 12'). Although various improvements to the stables are still desired, Vice President West, Dean Calhoun, the Director of Athletics, and the Head Riding Coach are satisfied that the stables are structurally sound and that all health and safety concerns have been addressed.

Discussion then turned to the priority for improvements to the stables as compared to the facilities needs of the tennis program. One IPPC member continued to express her concern that the stables remained inadequate, citing concerns about back-up power supply and conditions for the horses, and advocated that the stables should have priority over tennis.

Another member indicated that while she understood that current challenges between Skidmore's tennis program and the YMCA have made the teams' practice schedules very difficult, she wondered if it might be possible to explore opportunities with the Y that would allow the College to "buy into" the Y's indoor courts or make upgrades to those courts in a manner similar to our relationship with the hockey rink. The College could end up spending less money while securing a more advantageous practice and game schedule for indoor times. The alternative prospect of building new indoor courts at Skidmore is likely to be very expensive and have a large environmental footprint in terms of electricity use, etc., and the member encouraged the College to explore a wide range of options and models to improve this situation.

#### **4. President's "Strategic Renewal" Document**

With meeting time running short, President Glotzbach moved to the next agenda item, discussion of his "Strategic Renewal" document. In response to the President's invitation to offer feedback, comments included the following:

- Members generally expressed appreciation and support for the document.
- One noted that she especially enjoyed reading the "Going Forward" section.
- Another member particularly appreciated the section on Skidmore's differentiating attributes and suggested that it will be important, going forward, for the College to strengthen those attributes.
- It was noted that the phrase "intercultural literacy" appeared in places where a reader might expect to see the phrase "intercultural and global understanding" (the language used in Goal II of the *Strategic Plan*). President Glotzbach noted that suggestion and took it under advisement.
- Members expressed support for the section on "Transition and Transformation," both as something already reflected in the *Strategic Plan* and as a focus that emerged from the Town Hall Meetings. One member suggested that the concept might be addressed within the various "service" initiatives already being advanced.
- In response to a question, President Glotzbach indicated that proposed initiatives would be prioritized based on the series of questions outlined in the document (although not every initiative may generate an affirmative response to each question).

A request was made to return to this discussion at the next meeting and to discuss, in particular, what new initiatives might be added and which might be dropped. The item will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

*Minutes prepared by Barbara Krause; please notify of any changes.*