

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

December 6, 2013

PRESENT: Philip A. Glotzbach, Chair; Natalie Taylor, Vice Chair; Mary Lou Bates; Eric Beriguete '15; Joerg Bibow; Beau Breslin; Paul Calhoun; Michael Casey; Bill Duffy; Samuel Harris '15; David Karp; Wendy Kercull; Kathy Kinnin; Christine Kopec; Jeanne Sisson; Joseph Stankovich; Peter von Allmen; Michael West; Joshua C. Woodfork.

ABSENT: Rochelle Calhoun; Timothy Harper; Jackie Murray.

GUESTS: Lisa Christenson; Sarah Goodwin.

President Glotzbach called the meeting to order and noted that, as he will not be present at the last meeting of the semester on December 20, he wished to thank Christine Kopec for serving on the Committee this semester, filling in for Erica Bastress-Dukehart while she is with the London Program.

1. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 15, 2013 meeting were approved.

2. Middle States Accreditation and Assessment Subcommittee Updates

Sarah Goodwin and Lisa Christenson updated the IPPC Committee on the Middle States Accreditation Process and provided a timetable for the three-year period, Fall 2013 – Spring 2016. The Steering Committee is mostly confirmed, with one slot still pending. It will hold its first meeting on December 20, where it will be brought up to date on the standards and will decide on a self-study model. The self-study should be closely aligned with the Strategic Planning process. If the Committee chooses to do a select topic format (a proposed topic to be brought forward is “integrative learning”), the deadline for submitting the topic is January 8, 2014. The Middle States liaison, Christy Faison, will visit campus on April 22, 2014.

The Committee then reviewed the IPPC Assessment Subcommittee’s updated report (dated November 2013) and discussed the recommendations that were added since the last iteration. The Committee asked questions and provided revisions to the document. Due to time limitations, the discussion may return to IPPC if there are further questions.

3. Environmental Responsibility and Divestment

President Glotzbach presented his draft memo on the issue of environmental responsibility and divestment and explained the conversations leading up to this effort, including a petition last spring signed by approximately 500 students and received by the Board of Trustees. The memo outlines the creation of a Task Force to consider the various complexities and implications relating to the call for divestment, although understanding that ultimately it is the Board’s

fiduciary responsibility to manage the College's endowment. The Task Force would conduct its work in two phases, including:

Phase I:

1. To explore the *meaning* of the divestment request: i.e., to interrogate analogies and disanalogies with the anti-apartheid movement, to place this anti-divestment movement in the context of the College's actions to enhance the sustainability of our operations (e.g., geothermal heating and cooling, etc.), and so on. The purpose of this initial inquiry is to understand what this call for divestment is intended to accomplish in advancing the goals of sustainability and responsible operations.
2. To research what other colleges and universities have done in regard to this issue, paying special attention to schools that are similar to Skidmore (e.g., Middlebury, Colby, Swarthmore, Pomona), and seeking to learn what we can from the work that these institutions have completed.

Phase II

1. At such a time as the necessary information of the current structure of the College's endowment holdings can be made available, to begin analysis aimed at understanding the possible effects upon our endowment, annual budget, financial aid, etc. of divestment.
2. Upon completion of its work, to issue a report to the Board of Trustees and the Skidmore College community, understanding that any recommendations would not be binding upon the Trustees or the Administration.

The timeline for the Task Force to complete its work on Phase I is by the end of the current academic year and to complete Phase II by the end of January 2015 (assuming the College's equity holdings can be made available by May 2014). The Task Force will be made up of representatives of the student body, the administration, and the Board of Trustees. Following a discussion, and upon a motion made and seconded, the IPPC unanimously endorsed the formation of this Task Force.

4. Other Business

Mike West reported that the Greenfield Town Board approved in a 4-to-1 vote last night Skidmore's plan for a two-megawatt solar power system to be built on College property behind the baseball field, about 900 feet from the road and 1,100 feet from the nearest residence. It would generate about 2.6 million kilowatt hours annually, about 12 percent of the campus' total electricity needs.

Sam Harris reported that Charles Tetelman '16 will be the new SGAVice President for Academic Affairs, replacing Andrew Lowy '15.

Following these updates, the IPPC meeting was concluded and the Subcommittee on Strategic Planning met for its second meeting.

Please notify the President's Office of any changes to these minutes.