

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

March 4, 2016

10:30 a.m.

PRESENT: Mary Lou Bates; Addison Bennett '16; Beau Breslin; Paul Calhoun; Michael Casey; Bill Duffy; Philip A. Glotzbach, Chair; James Kennelly; Kris Leggiero; Ela Lepkowska-White; Eric Morser; Levi Rogers; Kelly Sheppard; Denise Smith; Joseph Stankovich; Charles Tetelman '16; Peter von Allmen; Mike West.

ABSENT: Gail Cummings-Danson; Tim Harper, Vice Chair; Kathy Kinnin; Debra Townsend Joshua C. Woodfork.

Professor of Management and Business and faculty representative, James J. Kennelly, served as vice chair of this meeting.

1. Approval of Committee Minutes

IPPC **approved** the Minutes from the February 19, 2016 meeting.

2. Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU) Recommendations

This agenda item was postponed until a future IPPC meeting (April 1, 2016)

3. President's Update

President Glotzbach provided a summary of the February Board of Trustees meeting, and noted that a campus update will be forthcoming later today via email with this and additional information. He reported that the Board:

- Unanimously approved Skidmore parent W. Scott McGraw as its chair-elect. He will succeed Linda Toohey, who is stepping down from the Board as chair in May after serving fifteen years as a Trustee and four years as chair. In taking on this new position, Mr. McGraw will step down as co-chair of the campaign committee but will continue to serve ex-officio. He and his wife, Cathy McGraw, served on or chaired the Parents Council for all four years their daughter Carolyn '12 was a student, and they chaired both the Class of 2012 Parents Fund and the Annual Parents Fund. Scott joined the Skidmore Board of Trustees in 2011, serving as chair of the Investment Committee and vice chair of the Advancement Committee and also sharing his expertise on the board's Executive, Budget and Finance, and Strategic Planning Committees.
- Accepted the unanimous recommendation of the Board of Trustees' Strategic Planning Committee, and approved the new *Strategic Plan: Creating Pathways to Excellence—the Plan for Skidmore 2015-2025*.
- Granted tenure, as of March 1, 2016, to three faculty members and approved tenure and promotion to three additional faculty members.

- Approved the major parameters for the FY 2017 budget and the FY 2017 capital budget.
- In addition to these actions, the Board discussed various plans for funding the Center for Integrated Sciences (CIS), facilities plans for Athletics, plans for the new Admissions and Financial Aid building, and issues relating to diversity, inclusion, the protection of speech, and academic freedom. Regarding CIS funding, President Glotzbach noted that Chair Toohey and Chair-elect McGraw are assembling a CIS working group to look at funding options for this project and will bring this conversation back to IPPC prior to the May Board of Trustees meeting.

3. Task Force on Divestment Report and Recommendations: Board of Trustees' Response

President Glotzbach informed IPPC that the Board also approved a report responding to the recommendations of the Task Force on Divestment (TFD), which was chaired by Jim Kennelly and vice-chaired by Karen Kellogg. President Glotzbach thanked Professors Kennelly and Kellogg and the entire Task Force on Divestment for their good work, including the Phase I Report and the Final Report.

In its report, the Board expressed its sincere appreciation for the work of the TFD and accepted its primary recommendation not to pursue a strategy of "full divestment from all direct and indirect investments in the securities of fossil fuel companies at this time." The TFD made six additional recommendations, of which the Board was able to accept three, at least in part: to identify an investment vehicle focused on fossil-free and clean tech industries; to collaborate with other higher education institutions to encourage the creation of such high performing "green" funds; and to report annually to the community on progress we are making in these areas. The Board also reaffirmed its strong support of the College's efforts to reduce its carbon footprint and invest in clean energy and geo-thermal technologies.

Professor Kennelly and Levi Rogers, both members of the TFD, expressed their disappointment with the Board's response, and further, expressed a desire to keep the conversation open. President Glotzbach is willing to continue working with the Board and with the NY6 colleges on alternative funds and reiterated his support for continued sustainability measures on campus. The President also noted that the Board's Investment Committee (IC) is looking into an alternative fund that the Board may be willing to invest in, and the IC will continue its research into this fund and update the Board. President Glotzbach will then update the IPPC on this possible investment.

In closing, President Glotzbach again reiterated his deep appreciation of the TFD and his respect for this shared governance process.

4. Enrollment Management Group's Report on Standardized Testing

Mary Lou Bates reported that the Enrollment Management Group (EMG), formerly the IPPC Subcommittee on Admissions and Financial Aid, is again considering whether to adopt a test-optional policy beginning in 2017 with the Class of 2021. This is the third or fourth time this consideration has been discussed in recent years.

Ms. Bates noted that after studying this issue in depth, the EMG concluded that there is no significant predictive value of standardized testing for student achievement and retention. Moreover, it is believed that adopting a test-optional policy would significantly decrease the advantage gained by students who can afford to improve their scores through additional test preparation, and thereby level the playing field for prospective students across the socioeconomic spectrum. This decision would be consistent with Skidmore's strong commitment to access, as expressed in its newly adopted [*Strategic Plan, Creating Pathways to Excellence: The Plan for Skidmore College 2015-2025*](#). A Draft of the Standardized Testing Policy Report, co-authored by Joe Stankovich, Corey Freeman-Gallant, and Sue Layden, has been shared with the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) and today with IPPC. Kelly Sheppard reported that CEPP unanimously approved going test-optional. A final version of the Report will be shared with the community next week. On or about March 23 (after spring break), there will be an open forum scheduled to review and discuss this policy. A motion will then be brought back to IPPC on April 1, with a public announcement on our about April 4.

Ms. Bates thanked the entire Enrollment Management Group, and expressed a personal thanks to Joe Stankovich, Corey Freeman-Gallant, and Sue Layden for writing the Draft of the Standardized Testing Policy Report.

5. Middle States Reaccreditation

President Glotzbach reminded the IPPC that the Middle States external review team will be on campus beginning Sunday, March 6, and he asked members of the IPPC to attend the public meeting on Wednesday, March 9, at 10:00 a.m. which will be led by Dr. Janet Riggs, President of Gettysburg College, who will report on the team's findings.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

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