

News from Academic Affairs, October, 2010

1. Faculty Honors and Awards

At the May Board meeting the following promotions to the rank of professor were approved:

- **Jenifer Delton, Department of History**
- **Corey Freeman-Gallant, Department of Biology**
- **David Karp, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Social Work.** .
- **David Peterson, Department of Art**
- **Flip Phillips, Department of Psychology,**

Over the course of the summer, faculty members have published new books and articles, offered performances and exhibits, developed new courses, earned grants, and received other honors and awards. For more details, please click on the link to the Faculty/Staff Achievements page of the College website:

<http://cms.skidmore.edu/news/achievements.cfm>

We are still (and always) reviewing more effective ways of highlighting the accomplishments of faculty and staff (including pedagogical innovation, scholarly and creative achievement, and service to internal and external communities). Please do send any suggestions along.

2. Academic Planning

Academic Staff met in retreat in early September. Invitations to attend were issued as well to the chairs of all major committees and the full membership of the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP). In the spring, **President Phil Glotzbach** had asked each member of Cabinet to develop a five-year plan, offering criteria against which to measure our choices, and requesting information about proposed outcomes, resources, and timelines. We made a start on this work at the Academic Staff retreat in May, resumed the discussion in the September retreat, and the conversations will continue in the fall. In the meantime, department chairs and program directors were asked to share the planning documents with their departments and programs. We are working on a number of plans concurrently so as to take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise, but three priorities in particular are capturing attention because they will need significant resources: the question of the composition of the faculty (the relative numbers of tenure-track and non-tenure-track appointments), the science vision (which awaits a report from consultant Art Lidsky), and the Transitions/Transformations project, which emerged strongly from the on- and off-campus Town Hall conversations last year. Some other planning items are listed separately in this bulletin.

3. Middle States Periodic Review (MSPR)

Under the leadership of **Sarah Goodwin, Faculty Assessment Coordinator**, we are ahead of our timetable on the MSPR. Later in the fall, Sarah expects to circulate drafts for community review.

4. Network Facilitator

Following the recommendation of the Center Study Group (see the CSG's report at http://cms.skidmore.edu/academic_affairs/Center_for_Faculty_Excellence/index.cfm), we expect shortly to issue a call to recruit a Network Facilitator to support Faculty Interest Groups (FIGS) and other pedagogical needs. FIGS provide opportunities for faculty to gather to discuss matters of mutual scholarly and pedagogical interest. Please stay tuned for further details about this appointment and other recommendations from the CSG. One recommendation has already been implemented: the location for meetings of the FIGS and for other faculty development activities is a newly renovated space in the Library (LI 212).

5. Library/IT

As you may recall, the review of the Library took place last spring; external consultants from St. Lawrence University, Colgate University, and Bates College visited the campus in mid April to review the Library's program and facilities, meeting with library faculty and staff, IT personnel, administrators, faculty, and students. At the initiative of **Ruth Copans, College Librarian, and Justin Sipher, Chief Technology Officer**, and with the support of the external consultants, we have begun to explore the possibility of reimagining and renovating the space in the Scribner Library to include the operations and staff of IT. We are not planning to merge IT and Scribner Library operations, but we see extraordinary advantages for deeper collaborations across these two divisions if they are located within the same space. Moreover, placing IT operations in the Library would create a center for resources to support teaching and learning activities across the campus.

6. Registrar and Director of Institutional Research

Dave DeConno has now been appointed Interim Registrar and will commence his appointment on October 18th. A search for a new Director of Institutional Research is in progress, and we expect to start bringing finalists to campus in the next couple of weeks. An open meeting for the community will be scheduled for each candidate, and we will be seeking your participation and responses.

7. Sustainability

Over the summer, I reported that a search committee (Chaired by **Kim Marsella, Environmental Studies, and Mark Youndt, Management and Business**) had been constituted to recruit a campus sustainability coordinator. Finalists are in the process of visiting campus, and the committee expects to announce an appointment in the near future.

8. The Tang

2010 marks the Tang Museum's 10th anniversary and the museum will celebrate its fall exhibitions with a public reception on October 9, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. and offer a day of all-ages activities on 10-10-2010 called of "10 Hours of Tang." A listing of the activities is available at

<http://tang.skidmore.edu/index.php/calendars/view/336>tag:2/upcoming:2>. The Tang is also joining the campus-wide celebration on October 15-17 with a Friends and Founders Luncheon to thank the museum's donors and reflect on the history and accomplishments of the Tang's first decade. A series of smaller dinners throughout the year, called Anniversary Salons, is drawing in students, faculty, and off-campus supporters as well.

9. Filene

Renovations of Filene, more extensive than originally anticipated, continue. The Space Planning Working Group (SPWG) is consulting broadly and will make recommendations regarding the next inhabitants of the building. The staff of Special Programs will occupy one floor.

10. New York 6 Consortium

I am delighted to report that, in September, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation granted the NY6 Consortium (Colgate, Hamilton, Hobart William Smith, Saint Lawrence, Skidmore, Union) a \$600K award. The award will support Library/IT collaborations across the colleges, diversity programs, and opportunities for development of faculty (including interest groups across colleges).

Please let me know if you have questions or comments about any of the items in this bulletin.

Warm regards,

Susan Kress
VPAA