

Committee of Committees Report

Thursday, May 2, 9:00-10:30

In attendance: Erica Bastress-Dukehart, IPPC Vice-Chair, and Natalie Taylor, incoming IPPC Vice-Chair; Mark Hofmann, CAPT Chair; Michael Arnush, CEPP Chair; Mary Lynn, CAFR Chair; Flagg Taylor, FDC member; Sylvia Franke McDevitt, CC Chair; Katie Hauser, CAS Chair; Charlene Grant, SRC member; Linda Hall, AC Chair; Jackie Murray, CIGU Chair; April Bernard, Jörg Bibow, Barbara Black, Mehmet Odekon, and Paul Sattler, FEC members.

Here summarized are chairs' reports of committee work primarily for spring 2013 semester but, sometimes, extending over the full 2012-2013 academic year.

The Institutional Policy and Planning Committee (IPPC) reports an excellent working relationship with the administration. This year, IPPC has been busy with the Policy on Policies and the Standards of Business Conduct Policy; this second policy was recently presented to the faculty for a vote to endorse, and it was endorsed. Throughout the year, IPPC has received regular updates on the science building project. A key agenda item for IPPC this year and particularly this spring semester has been strategizing about the development of the next Strategic Plan. Central to this work has been the question of how best to solicit input from all parts of the Skidmore community, from faculty to alumni/ae to students to parents of students. The Vice-Chair reports that next year we will see "SIGs," Skidmore Interest Groups that will tap various constituencies on campus for input regarding the Plan.

The Committee on Appointments, Promotions, and Tenure (CAPT) has spent this semester carrying out its usual work and reports good relationships with the administration. The CAPT chair also spoke of CAPT's effective collaboration with CEPP on the new student evaluation form.

The Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) chair reports excellent administrative interactions, praising his administrative colleagues on CEPP—DOF/VPAA Beau Breslin and Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun—for their wisdom and their support as well as their ability to "assist without directing." CEPP also notes the assistance of Joe Stankovich from Institutional Research and deems Associate Dean of the Faculty for Academic Policy and Advising Corey Freeman-Gallant "indispensable." CEPP reports good working relationships with CC, but CEPP also notes a disagreement with FEC regarding the merits of a summer working group to begin the re-evaluation work of the all-college curriculum. The two committees have worked hard to maintain collegial relations despite the disagreement. This year for CEPP has been a full one. Several of its key agenda items have been helping to re-locate the Assessment Steering Subcommittee, science literacy (for which there has been an internal report to CEPP), the new student evaluation form (on which the chair of CEPP thanked CAPT for its assistance), Culture-Centered Inquiry, and course caps (about which there was a recent report offered at the Faculty Meeting). The CEPP chair notes that, although the Culture-Centered Inquiry proposal failed, CEPP experienced cordial relationships with all chairs; there were simply not enough courses forthcoming to make the proposal viable. The central item on CEPP's agenda for next year will be a major re-evaluation of the all-college curriculum, which has been in place since 1991-92; the issues of science literacy and Culture-Centered Inquiry will

be folded into this larger project. Within a week of this report, CEPP will be having its end-of-the-year retreat, the focus of which will be the all-college curriculum, and CEPP is inviting faculty to send in ideas that could inform that retreat's discussion. CEPP is inviting all current and new members of CEPP to the retreat, and its student reps will attend. And, finally, it was suggested that, in light of the new student evaluation form, CEPP recommend that departments revisit their long forms.

The Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR) conducts work that is typically confidential; however, the chair informed the meeting that it did deal with one case that took the majority of the semester. CAFR reports that, throughout the case, DOF/VPAA Beau Breslin and ADOF Corey Freeman-Gallant did a great job. Furthermore, CAFR mentioned that it has a very capable student representative for next year. Overall, CAFR has spent this year on usual business, except for its role in the DOF/VPAA search and its interactions with CEPP regarding teaching evaluations.

The Faculty Development Committee (FDC) happily reports that it has given out lots of money and awards. This semester, the FDC worked effectively with FEC on presenting a motion to change FHB language regarding the timing of sabbatical applications. Two ongoing concerns that will be taken up next year are 1) clarification on the distinctive criteria for a Faculty Development Grant versus "Travel to Read/Represent" and 2) deliberations on Faculty Summer Research grants. In the early years of this fledgling program, the Director of the program assisted FDC in awarding these grants; however, FDC feels that it can now handle the vetting of these award applications.

The Curriculum Committee (CC) has assisted the Department of Psychology in an overhaul of its major; this major project (in both senses of the word) took half the semester. The CC chair reports that there is a curricular change for Chemistry currently on the table and that it anticipates a Management and Business major overhaul next year. Other work this year included the committee's standard work of vetting courses; the chair reports 10 new Scribner Seminars for this coming fall.

The Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) reports—without irony—that they have a "good time" on their committee. CAS confirms excellent and effective relationships with ADOF Corey Freeman-Gallant, Registrar Dave DeConno, and the Off-Campus Study and Exchanges Office. The CAS chair did report that it has been difficult for the past two years locating two student reps to serve on CAS; the best she could do was get one student for half of each year. Finally, it was suggested that in future years the chairs of CEPP, CC, and CAS should communicate, say, once per month for shared, effective collaboration among the three committees.

The Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship (SRC) reports good working relations. The SRC has divided itself into two smaller groups. One group has worked with the Civic Fellows on pertinent definitions (e.g., *what is civic engagement here at Skidmore?*), and it will send those drafted definitions on to CEPP and possibly IPPC. The second smaller group has focused on marketing, particularly on designing a new webpage. SRC has worked with students of Professor Deb Hall on a new "CE" logo.

The Athletic Council (AC) reports that it did not play a role in the College's handling of the soccer hazing incident, though it was informed of the incident. It says it has good relations with DOF/VPAA Beau Breslin and Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun, the administrators it works most often with. The AC conducted its annual review of physical activity instructors and vetted a policy for adding and eliminating sports. The AC says the College has made progress on Title Nine, though that remains an ongoing concern. The question was asked about the future likelihood of a new sports center, and the AC chair reported that construction on the new boathouse has not yet begun.

The Subcommittee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU) focused its semester on surveying student climate, working with the outside firm Romney and Associates. Over 900 students participated, but a few pockets of the student population did not respond as hoped. Additionally, CIGU plans to conduct student climate exit surveys for all students who wish to participate. Next year, they will conduct an analysis of the data and propose ways to address those problems that seem most troubling. There were several questions for the CIGU chair. First, what did CIGU think about the timing of the survey and how that might have affected responses? (The survey was conducted at the height of the commencement speaker controversy.) Did students protesting Cynthia Carroll's visit to Skidmore come to CIGU? The chair responds that the student reps reported that the students felt CIGU was not the body to address their concerns. Will CIGU conduct a faculty as well as a staff climate survey? The chair says they intend to. The CIGU chair finally added that they have set up the Ambassadors Program to assist with hiring.

The Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) reports that it has completed work on all its agenda items this year, with the exception of new *FHB* language for NTT advancement opportunities. FEC is waiting for a white paper from ADOF Paty Rubio. FEC began this semester co-hosting with the President and the DOF/VPAA the Academic Summit on January 18. This semester, FEC ran the typical two rounds of elections, and observed both the February and May Board of Trustees meetings. The FEC chair has been attending IPPC meetings and believes this has been an effective arrangement that has strengthened communication, a keystone of governance. FEC worked with both FDC and CC on motions; both of which passed this semester. For the late-April faculty meeting, FEC proposed a Committee of the Whole discussion on governance. That discussion will inform the work of both next year's FEC and the Faculty Workload Working Group, on which this year's FEC chair serves. This group has already met three times this semester and will continue its work over the summer and through the fall.

In sum, this year has been a productive, collegial, and smoothly functioning year for governance. The Faculty Executive Committee wishes to thank all its colleagues for the invaluable work they do on behalf of us all.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Black, (Chair of FEC)