

# INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

February 13, 2015

10:30 am

**PRESENT:** President Philip A. Glotzbach, Chair; Joerg Bibow, Vice Chair; Addison Bennett '16; Barbara Black; Paul Calhoun; Rochelle Calhoun; Michael Casey; Emily Davidson; Bill Duffy; Samuel Harris '15; Karen Kellogg; James Kennelly; Wendy Kercull; Kathy Kinnin; William Lewis; Dan Nathan; Mehmet Odekon; Viviana Rangil; Levi Rogers; Joseph Stankovich; Michael West; and Joshua C. Woodfork.

**ABSENT:** Mary Lou W. Bates and Beau Breslin.

### 1. Minutes from December 19, 2014 and January 30, 2015

IPPC approved the meeting Minutes from December 19, 2014 and January 30, 2015. Vice Chair Joerg Bibow corrected January 30, 2015's Minutes, Section 4 regarding the budget to read: "The comprehensive fee *increase* is 3.5%." The Minutes will not be posted on IPPC's website until after the Board of Trustees February meeting (the final week of February) because of the budget discussions, which require Board action.

### 2. Task Force on Divestment Update

The Task Force on Divestment's Chair James Kennelly and Vice Chair Karen Kellogg presented an update on the work of the group. President Glotzbach explained that we empaneled and charged a Task Force to examine this issue: the divestment of fossil fuel holdings in our endowment, which was raised by a petition signed mostly by students and then a subsequent Student Government Association Senate Resolution. The Task Force on Divestment comprises three faculty, three staff, three students, and one trustee. The Task Force first convened in April 2014, adjourned for the summer because of the difficulty of student schedules while away from campus, and then has met biweekly since September 2015. The work is divided into two phases. The first phase is to understand the call for divestment, what it implies, and what it is intended to do, to understand what other comparable institutions have done, and phase two is to consider a recommendation(s). The first phase has been completed and produced a Phase I report, which was shared with IPPC.

The report is meant to be a balanced, rigorous review of findings to serve as a catalyst for community conversations. The intent of divestment is symbolic, but it is also intended to be a forum for public debate. Fossil fuel divesting is really focused on the holdings of 200 companies that are associated with coal, gas, and oil. Phase I compares institutions that have chosen to divest with others that have decided not to do so. Many institutions have co-mingled funds so divesting is difficult. The Phase I report includes a report from Colonial Consulting, LLC, our financial advisers, who suggest that divesting would lead to a reduction in the growth of our endowment, which leads to a smaller amount of funds available for annual take out for our operating budget. The Phase I report, along with other materials, will be posted on the Task

Force on Divestment's website and emailed to the community. The Task Force will hold two open public forums to seek input from the community on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at 1 pm and 5:30 pm. President Glotzbach asked the Vice President for Advancement Michael Casey to work with Professor Kennelly to consider how to reach out to alums. President Glotzbach asked that the Task Force on Divestment consider a non-binary response in answering the questions regarding divestment.

### **3. Campus Sustainability Strategic Plan**

The idea of a strategic plan for sustainability came to IPPC in spring 2013 in the form of a proposal for a plan. IPPC approved moving forward with the Plan's development. The Campus Sustainability subcommittee consists of seventeen members. The subcommittee has been working on the plan for over a year and moved from eleven focus areas to five in an effort to streamline goals. The five focus areas have reasonable goals that are "stretches" for the institution that can easily be tracked. The *Plan* acknowledges the terrific work done in the area of sustainability over the last decade. The five focus areas include: energy, food, waste, lands/grounds, and engagement. Each focus area includes a dial to indicate where we are and the goal where we hope to be by 2025. Many of the goals included working with others across campus to determine appropriate goals. In determining the goals, the subcommittee considered other projects on the horizon such as Center for Integrated Sciences and the new Admissions building. The engagement focus area is a broad category about making sustainability a central feature of Skidmore's identity and creating a living-learning environment around sustainability, including an interactive map. The point was raised that it was intentional to separate the sustainability plan from discussions around divestment. A question was raised on what is considered local in terms of food and the answer was a 150-mile radius. Another question was raised regarding the efforts of our peer and aspirants in the area of sustainability and placing our work in a larger context. Vice Chair Bibow asked what it would take to become a national leader in the area of sustainability. Being even more aggressive in our goals without purchasing carbon offsets was one answer. A question was raised regarding the cost and savings around our sustainability efforts.

The sustainability plan has been shared with President's Cabinet. It was requested that the plan incorporate feedback from that discussion and IPPC and return to both groups in an effort to seek endorsement. President Glotzbach thanked the presenters for their work and explained that this plan is an excellent model. He noted that the relationship between this plan and the next *Strategic Plan* will be considered.

### **4. CEPP MALS Report**

Professor Bill Lewis, Chair of the Committee on Educational Policy and Planning (CEPP), explained that there have been internal and external reviews of the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (MALS) and then a CEPP subcommittee that did its work over the last year and issued its report over the January break. CEPP discussed the report during its January 2015 retreat and then met with the Dean of Special Programs Paul Calhoun, as MALS falls within Special Programs. It was recommended to have a moratorium on new MALS applications. As a point of comparison, the steps involved with the closing of the University Without Walls (UWW)

program was reviewed. When UWW was closed CEPP and IPPC considered the UWW report, presented a joint CEPP/IPPC motion to the Faculty recommending closure of UWW, faculty members considered the motion over two Faculty Meetings and voted to endorse the joint motion, then the resolution from the Faculty went to the President, and then the President made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, the Board's vote was shared with the New York State Department of Education.

CEPP has endorsed the recommendation of the subcommittee:

- The MALS program in its current form is no longer academically and financially viable and should be discontinued;
- The College should strongly consider the role of graduate studies in future strategic planning.

A question was raised regarding how long it takes to discontinue a program like MALS. The response was that it could take as long as five years for all remaining students to complete the program. There are three staff members involved in MALS with one person working 60% for MALS and one person leaving the position at the end of August 2015. The comparison to the community reaction when UWW was closed was considered with some IPPC members expressing the difference in community members' attachment to the MALS versus UWW. There are currently nineteen students in the program with two recently admitted students among them and two students who have been enrolled for a year. At this time, IPPC received the report and thanked CEPP for sharing it.

## **5. Next Strategic Plan**

President Glotzbach provided a draft of the next *Strategic Plan* and explained that the current document was a prompt to move us from planning work of last year to consider some broader ideas to get us to a document with some background and cohesion. He expects things to greatly change with the next draft, but saw this version as a catalyst for discussion. The process is to receive President's Cabinet's input and feedback from the Board of Trustees at its February 2015 meeting. President Glotzbach explained that the last process for a strategic plan went through forty drafts. Vice Chair Bibow managed the discussion. He briefly reviewed the three sections of the draft.

A question was raised regarding what was original and new within this draft of the plan. The response was that we are not becoming a completely new college, but rather the top new ideas include: how we think about our academic programs, leaning into this question about informed responsible citizenship—including diversity and inclusion—and focusing on transition and transformation, preparing our students for next steps and how we measure success on this front.

The question of the “we” in the document was noted in terms of not dividing students versus others and not mentioning particular groups of faculty. The question was raised regarding who is the intended audience of a strategic plan? The importance of having the document speak to all shareholders was emphasized. The call in the document to be a national leader on “creativity” was appreciated. Even more emphasis on referencing CIS, humanities, and sustainability planning was suggested. The power of having clearly articulated goals was also

suggested. The idea of Skidmore being nimble showcasing the flexibility required to respond to change was suggested.

President Glotzbach welcomed the Committee's further input. IPPC will have continued conversations over the next few months. President Glotzbach asked that the current draft stay within the group until we are ready to share it with others.

#### **6. New Business/Future Agenda Items**

IPPC had no further business.

The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 27, 10:30-12:00 pm in Murray-Aikins Room 4.

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