

# INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2016

10:30 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Mary Lou Bates; Addison Bennett '16; Paul Calhoun; Michael Casey; Gail Cummings-Danson; Bill Duffy; Philip A. Glotzbach, Chair; Tim Harper, Vice Chair; James Kennelly; Kathy Kinnin; Ela Lepkowska-White; Eric Morser; Levi Rogers; Kelly Sheppard; Denise Smith; Joseph Stankovich; Charles Tetelman '16; Debra Townsend; Peter von Allmen; Mike West; Joshua C. Woodfork.

**ABSENT:** Beau Breslin; Kris Leggiero.

### 1. Approval of Committee Minutes

IPPC **approved** the Minutes from the April 1, 2016 meeting with one amendment under Item #5, **Enrollment Management Group's Report on Standardized Testing**, paragraph 2, last sentence. The sentence will now read, "President Glotzbach suggested that standardized tests offer little predictive value, given all the other information Admissions collects and uses."

### 2. Space Planning Working Group (SPWG) Recommendations

Dan Rodecker, co-chair of the SPWG and Director of Facilities, presented on behalf of co-chair Crystal Moore, who could not attend the IPPC meeting. Dan presented a memo dated April 13, 2016, that outlined three recommendations from the SPWG, which was written after consultation with Vice President of Admissions and Dean of Enrollment Mary Lou Bates, and Interim Vice President for Communications and Marketing Debra Townsend. The recommendations are as follows:

- Leave Admissions in the Waring House until the fundraising and construction of a new Admissions building is completed.
- Move Communications and Marketing to the Eissner Admissions building after completing an extensive renovation. The renovation would include but not be limited to a new inside layout, entryway, carpet, and furniture in an effort to meet the needs of the department as defined by Debra Townsend.
- Renovate the old Faculty-Staff Lounge (current home of Communications and Marketing) for student use, such as the Multicultural Center/Social Justice Center or other usage.

IPPC discussed the proposed timeline, the additional cost of approximately \$500,000 for the Communications and Marketing renovations in the Eissner building, the concern of funds (including over-enrollment funds) being put toward projects other than CIS, the Board of Trustees' approval in May, and other possible uses for the former Faculty-Staff Lounge space.

Upon a motion made and seconded, IPPC **approved** the recommendations from the SPWG with the understanding that the former Faculty-Staff Lounge space (third recommendation) may also be needed for Center for Integrated Sciences (CIS) or other construction swing space. President's Cabinet has previously approved these recommendations.

### **3. Restorative Justice and Reintegration Project Proposal**

David Karp, Professor of Sociology and former Associate Dean of Students, joined IPPC to discuss the Restorative Justice and Reintegration Project Proposal which states as its mission as, "A teaching, research, advocacy, and implementation project that supports Restorative Justice initiatives in K-12 schools, college campuses, and in the criminal justice system."

David further discussed the mission, staffing, how the project can offer educational, volunteer, and internship opportunities for Skidmore students, major initiatives of the project, and the activities, lectures, roundtables, and symposia that David has conducted so far in this area.

David confirmed his understanding that in moving forward with this initiative, the College would not provide a dedicated location on campus for the project, would not provide institutional resources, and would not assist in finding funding sources, particularly as funding relates to sources already identified through the Advancement office.

Concerns were raised as to the restorative justice process and how it relates to the College's process in sexual and gender-based misconduct (SGBM) cases. David and Gail Cumming-Danson confirmed that restorative justice is not currently used in the SGBM process, although it may be part of other campus conduct issues as a voluntary course of action if both parties agree to it. A few committee members suggested that there may be an existing perception among students that in some instances individuals involved in a SGBM proceeding have been led to believe that we do use restorative justice practices in Skidmore's SGBM process. This issue would fall under the purview of the SGBM Advisory Committee.

After further discussion, IPPC approved the "Skidmore College Restorative Justice Project" Proposal. President's Cabinet has also approved this proposal.

### **4. Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) Proposal**

David Cohen, Assistant Professor in Management & Business and Chair of CAS, joined IPPC to present a proposal to eliminate overload fees for all students taking more than 18 semester hours of classes in a semester.

David explained that a department on campus asked CAS to eliminate the 20-semester hour cap on student course loads and to support eliminating overload fees. CAS decided that the 20-semester hour limit plays an important role in students' education and declined to eliminate it. CAS did, however, come to support the position that semester hour overloads should not lead to additional fees, as this practice raises important issues of equity and access.

David explained the research CAS conducted in investigating this issue further, including academic issues, access issues, finding out what or if similar schools charge overload fees (they do not, at least in practice), and the amount that Skidmore collected in recent years on overload fees (approximately \$50,000 per year). The College Treasurer was asked to comment on the budgetary implications of this decision.

After further discussion, IPPC **approved** CAS's recommendation to eliminate overload fees for all students taking more than 18 semester hours of classes in a semester.

#### **5. Middle States Reaccreditation Update and Honorary Degree Policy**

Due to time limitations, the Middle States Reaccreditation Update and the Honorary Degree Policy discussion will be postponed to the next IPPC meeting.

President Glotzbach thanked everyone who presented and worked on the proposals and recommendations brought forward at today's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

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