

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 4, 2020

PRESENT: Cerri Banks; Mary Lou Bates; Joerg Bibow, Vice Chair; Rachael Borthwick '21; Marta Brunner; Marc C. Conner, Chair; Michelle Hubbs; Carolyn Lundy; Martin Mbugua; Donna Ng; Feryaz Ocakli; Michael Orr; Joe Porter; Levi Rogers; Mark Rye; Casey Schofield; Kurt Smemo; Joseph Stankovich; Dwane Sterling; Amy Tweedy; and Joshua C. Woodfork.

ABSENT: None.

GUESTS: John F. McKnight, Connecticut College.

The meeting was held via Zoom and called to order at 10:32 a.m. by Chair President Conner.

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes from the August 19, 2020 Meeting.

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of August 19, 2020. With no proposed changes, **the minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved.**

2. President's Report

President Conner provided a brief update on Skidmore's fall opening progress. With two weeks of classes completed and over 6,500 tests conducted, we have seen only two positive COVID-19 test results. He applauded the ongoing commitment of the Skidmore community in following all health and safety protocols in an attempt to protect one another. He encouraged us to remain diligent with our testing, spacing, and masking efforts. The President expressed great appreciation for the work that Skidmore students, faculty, and staff have done to support the successful start of the fall semester.

He reflected on his recent [Racial Justice Initiative](#) that was announced to the community on September 1. The initiative includes 12 projects in three clusters. President Conner stated that the initiative reflects calls from across the country, in the local community, and on campus for racial justice. The goal is for these initiatives to be action-oriented, achievable, and true institutional change efforts. They are substantial efforts that will require ongoing effort and collaboration. President Conner suggested that we are a diverse, welcoming, and supportive community, but, like the nation, and like each of us, we can be better and do better. Via the related website, the President's Office will be giving monthly updates on progress toward the outlined goals, and all members of the community are invited to be part of these efforts.

Spring semester 2020 initial planning is beginning to be developed. The planning will be conducted in a collaborative manner similar to planning for the fall. At this time, the plan is to operate as if the same health conditions in place right now will be in place in the spring.

Beginning today, September 4, the President will host the first monthly campus-wide staff meeting. These staff meetings will be held on the same day as the monthly faculty meeting. Staff are an important constituency at the College and vehicles for information sharing and discussion are important as we work together.

3. Diversity and Inclusion at Skidmore College Statement

Vice President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity Joshua C. Woodfork asked Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU) Co-Chair and College Librarian Marta Brunner and Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) Chair to lead IPPC an affirmation of the [Diversity and Inclusion at Skidmore College](#) statement. VP Woodfork stated he considered the statement a living document and invited community members to propose ways to use it and update it, particularly considering the Black Lives Matter movement and ongoing antiracism efforts. In 2011-2012, the statement was drafted by CIGU and then discussed by IPPC, culminating in IPPC's voting to express support for the statement on December 14, 2012, and encouragement for its use in appropriate ways. President Conner thanked CIGU for this reaffirmation and asked IPPC to remember to return to the statement throughout the year.

4. IPPC Foundations, Purpose, Goals, & Next Steps with John F. McKnight, Connecticut College

President Conner explained that although IPPC met over the summer, today is the first "official" meeting of the academic year. Moreover, he noted that the bulk of this first meeting is dedicated to considering our common purpose. Accordingly, Chair Conner and Vice Chair Bibow arranged for an outside facilitator, Connecticut College's [Dean of Institutional Equity and Inclusion John F. McKnight](#). On behalf of the College and the committee, President Conner welcomed Dean McKnight. Dean McKnight led IPPC through an interactive facilitation that centered on the committee's work. He focused on the group's shared efforts, including our agreements and assumptions, how we define shared governance, what individual committee members bring to this work in terms of identity and constituency, the purpose of the committee, how we partner with other bodies, and how we externally communicate.

As the central deliberative body for College shared governance, IPPC members considered their advisory role to the President. Members asked that the purpose of agenda items be explained via the agenda, or prior to discussion so as to distinguish whether these items are presented for informational purposes, consultation, advice, or for endorsement. IPPC members also noted the importance of notifying the community of the committee's work and how SGA Senate, Staff, and Faculty Meetings may be utilized.

President Conner stated that this is a great way to kick off the academic year. He thanked Dean McKnight for joining the group and VP Woodfork for suggesting and arranging this guest facilitation. Vice Chair Bibow thanked Dean McKnight and added that his presentation was extremely helpful and that the material covered will help IPPC to be a more effective committee.

5. Call for Agenda Items

No new agenda items were raised.

6. Other Business

No other business was brought forth.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

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