

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 3, 2021

PRESENT: Mary Lou Bates; Adrian Bautista; Joerg Bibow, Vice Chair; Marta Brunner; Marc Conner, Chair; Michelle Hubbs; Jina Mao; Donna Ng; Diane O'Connor; Jason Ohlberg; Michael Orr; Lori Parks; Geraldine Santoso '22; Rik Scarce; Kurt Smemo; Joseph Stankovich; Dwane Sterling; Smriti Tiwari; Amy Tweedy; Claire Wang '23; Joshua Woodfork; and Carey Anne Zucca.

ABSENT: Joe Porter.

GUESTS: Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Vice President Nathaniel Lowell '24; Ayers Saint Gross (ASG) firm member Amber Wendland; Faculty Advisory Board (FAB) Chair Michael Ennis-McMillian; Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR) Chair Daniel Curley; Assistant VP for Student Affairs and Director of Athletics and COVID-19 Logistics Working Group Co-Chair Gail Cummings-Danson.

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 November 19, 2021 Meeting

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes of November 19, 2021. With no proposed changes, **the minutes from the November 19, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.**

2. Campus Master Planning Update

Amber Wendland from Ayers Saint Gross (ASG) updated IPPC on progress with [Campus Master Planning](#). ASG hosted two virtual Open Forum Zoom sessions on October 28 and October 29 for the entire Skidmore community. The forums had strong attendance and focused on the information that has been gathered throughout the first phase of the Campus Master Planning process, including what they have seen, heard, and analyzed about the Skidmore campus. Participants were encouraged to review the [Campus Master Planning videos](#), which provide overviews of the campus strengths and challenges. ASG also provided a glimpse of the next phase of the process, which involves envisioning and testing.

ASG shared some specific ideas for our campus over the next 10-20 years. The presentation included two scenarios on a new academic building, potential residence hall, reclamation of student space, classroom renovations, integrating sustainability into design, and how we could potentially relocate offices/departments around to achieve campus master planning goals. The ideas and scenarios presented were tied directly to Skidmore's *Strategic Plan, [Creating Pathways to Excellence: The Plan for Skidmore College 2015-2025](#)*. ASG emphasized the need to have input from members across the community in order to clearly identify and articulate the highest needs of the College in this future-oriented planning. The envision and test phase is an opportunity to assess the present state of Skidmore's campus and to plan for the future, while incorporating Skidmore's commitment to sustainability, diversity, equity, inclusion, and access for all.

ASG will continue to test ideas and synthesize the draft plan while continuing to engage with the community. Three one-hour Campus Master Planning Zoom sessions are scheduled for December 6. If one cannot attend any of these sessions, they may review materials on [the website](#) and provide feedback. IPPC members thanked ASG leaders for thoughtful and insightful ideas, commenting that based on the presentation it is clear that ASG has listened to the community on campus needs and hopes. ASG, the Steering Committee, and the Task Force will continue to develop a plan that reflects the community's priorities, principles, and aspirations.

3. COVID-19 Vaccination Booster

Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of Athletics and COVID-19 Logistics Working Group Co-Chair Gail Cummings-Danson presented a recommendation by the working group that would require all students and employees to receive a COVID-19 booster shot when eligible. She spoke to rising COVID-19 cases in Saratoga County and cited the recent COVID-19 Omicron variant and the potential challenges variants may bring to the health and safety of our community. Co-chair Cummings-Danson noted that although the College has remained a leader in its comprehensive measures against COVID-19, the virus continues to pose significant challenges with the College remaining at a [“yellow” status-level](#).

Co-chair Cummings-Danson stated that Skidmore is currently following Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines and encourages and supports individuals in getting a booster shot when eligible (six months after their second shot). She reminded IPPC that the guiding principles for making a decision about a booster shot requirement would remain the same as they have been for all other COVID-related decision-making: what is in the best interest for the health and safety of our entire community in the short- and long-term as we continue to deliver our in-person education. She noted that with this requirement recommendation medical and religious exemptions would again exist as they did with initially requiring the vaccination.

President Conner asked for open discussion from IPPC members on their perspectives related to the recommendation. IPPC discussed the potential for booster shot hesitancy by some individuals due to potential side effects, booster shot eligibility—specifically for international students who may have received their initial vaccine outside of the U.S, and the need for accessibility and flexibility for receiving the booster. Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights (CAFR) Chair Daniel Curley noted that the official stance of CAFR is that a booster shot requirement would not impinge on any academic freedom or rights issues. Student Government Association (SGA) Executive Vice President Nathaniel Lowell '24 spoke to the importance of having on-campus booster shot clinics available for those students who are staying on campus over the winter break and continuing clinics into the spring semester. SGA Vice President for Financial Affairs Claire Wang '24 added that students may want to consider when they receive the booster shot and navigating potential side effects with academic commitments.

Vice President for Finance and Administration and Treasurer and Co-Chair of the COVID-19 Logistics Working Group Donna Ng noted that in partnership with a local pharmacist, Skidmore will hold an on-campus vaccination and booster clinic for students on December 7 in the Intramural Gym in the Williamson Sport Center. At this time the clinic is for members of the Skidmore community only and prioritized for students, though a limited number of spaces for employees may be made available.

A motion was made and seconded to endorse the COVID-19 Working Group to develop a booster shot policy requirement proposal and return to IPPC with this information. **IPPC unanimously approved the motion to endorse the COVID-19 Logistics Working Group's development of a booster shot requirement policy proposal.**

4. Call for Agenda Items

No new agenda items were raised.

5. Other Business

No other business was brought forth.

Meeting adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

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