

**INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 1, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Mary Lou Bates; Adrian Bautista; Joerg Bibow, Vice Chair; Marta Brunner; Marc Conner, Chair; Michelle Hubbs; Jina Mao; Donna Ng; Jason Ohlberg; Michael Orr; Lori Parks; Joe Porter; 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:** None.

**GUESTS:** Ayers Saint Gross (ASG) Design Firm member Amber Wendland.

**The meeting was held via Zoom** and called to order at 10:31 a.m. by Chair President Conner.

**1. Campus Master Planning with Ayers Saint Gross**

Ayers Saint Gross (ASG) member Amber Wendland updated IPPC on the progress with [Campus Master Planning](#) as Skidmore nears the end of the draft planning phase and moves into the final planning stage. ASG shared results from the Campus Master Plan Survey that was distributed in-person and online February 2022 to staff, faculty, students, and the Board of Trustees. Wendland reported that over 150 students engaged with ASG in-person as part of the survey outreach. The primary focus of the survey was future project prioritization.

ASG reminded IPPC of the six planning principles—integration, flexibility, belonging, wellness, humility, and stewardship—that have been implemented to guide the planning process from the onset and used to gain input from the campus community. The survey enabled ASG to reach a broad sample and to affirm perception of the most pressing needs of the College. Survey respondents were asked to look at how well a project addressed student recruitment, planning principles, sustainability, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). ASG commented on the similarities and differences in the survey findings across constituent groups in ranking priority needs through the lens of the six planning principles. ASG member Wendland reviewed how the project prioritization findings overlay and integrate with the current existing campus, future campus master planning, long-term development, and the benefit on investment prioritization. She stated that ASG is cognizant that campus master planning needs to recognize, accommodate, and adjust for growth and change in the future as pedagogical needs and technology continue to evolve. Vice President for Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity Joshua Woodfork commented on the need for the plan to present tangible DEI pieces, including focus on accessibility, adequate signage, and cultural markers. ASG thanked IPPC for their input, guidance, and engagement in the campus master planning process thus far.

ASG will share more information, including survey results, during sessions with community members at 1 p.m. Monday, April 11, and at 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 13, as well as during a student-only session at 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 19. Updates on the Campus Master Planning process and schedule, as well as a review of the Campus Master Plan survey will be provided. Following these sessions, the next community forums to be offered will be those presenting the

final *Campus Master Plan*. These sessions will offer the last opportunity for community members to ask questions and provide any feedback before the final presentation to the Board of Trustees in mid-May.

## **2. Value and Visions Presidential Forums for 2022-2023**

President Conner spoke to the Value and Visions forum to be introduced next academic year. He stated that the idea is for the community to spend a year talking together in various kinds of formats and gatherings about what it is that makes Skidmore special and what are the things that “make Skidmore, Skidmore,” meaning what are the values of the College, what is unique to the College, what defines the College, and what are the College’s signature traits and histories? There will be a series of opportunities in a myriad of formats for the community to discuss what they value most about Skidmore. He emphasized that the timing of the forums is intentional and that the forums are a naturally progression from the finalization of the campus master planning and before we begin the process for the next strategic plan. It will also occur within the context of centennial celebrations.

An IPPC member commented that encompassing themes of uncomfortable moments in our campus history will be important. Another suggested that the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climate (NACCC) survey results for students and staff, and the Racial Justice Initiative (RJI) work will be key in creating discussion space and productive tension. This is a time to discuss collaboratively why creative thought matters, how do we distinguish ourselves from other institutions, and where do we want to center our priorities while paying attention to staffing levels and campus initiatives. Student Government Association (SGA) Vice President for Financial Affairs Claire Wang '24 commented on the need for creating modes of communication for students to increase awareness and showcase student accomplishments. Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs Adrian Bautista echoed these sentiments and added that there is a need to create links between faculty and the student experience that is lived outside of the classroom. The forums will aim to implement a bottom-up approach, invite people in, and gather ideas and feedback from the whole community.

## **3. President’s Updates**

President Conner shared the sad news that Pat Choukeir, coordinator of credit-bearing internships and project funds, died peacefully Thursday, March 31. The President expressed condolences to her family and colleagues, and stated she will be acknowledged with a moment of silence in her honor at both the staff and faculty meetings of April 1. An obituary notice will be sent to the Skidmore community shortly.

The President discussed recent changes to COVID-19 guidance. He stated that constant vigilance is the way we are approaching the ongoing pandemic and that whatever COVID-19 throws at us, we will be well prepared. The President noted the robust range of campus events that are now able to take place in-person on campus, from athletic competitions and performances to the recent Humanistic Inquiry Symposium and [In It 6 events](#), which occur next week.

[Commencement](#) will also take place fully in person on Saturday, May 21, at Saratoga Performing Arts Center (SPAC). Director, playwright, and activist-in-art Moisés Kaufman and novelist, literary scholar, and philosopher Charles Johnson will both receive honorary degrees. Lisa Grady-Willis, teaching professor and associate director of the Intergroup Relations Program, has

been selected as the faculty speaker.

#### **4. IPPC Subcommittee Check-In**

VP Woodfork asked subcommittee representatives to weigh-in on their membership status, if they are meeting this semester, if they had any agenda items for IPPC, and items of note that they have been working on. The IPPC subcommittee check-in included: the Committee on Intercultural and Global Understanding (CIGU), the IPPC Subcommittee on Institutional Effectiveness (SIE), the IPPC Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship (SRC), and the IPPC Subcommittee on Budget & Finance (B&F).

The subcommittees reported having full membership, with the exception of the Subcommittee on Institutional Effectiveness (SIE) which SIE Co-Chair Amy Tweedy reported is missing a student member. All Subcommittees reported that they have been meeting regularly throughout the academic year. SIE is considering appraisal of the College's Institutional Effectiveness Assessment [Plan](#) and how the committee considers its efforts across divisions. SRC reported exciting efforts with Project Pericles and civic engagement. CIGU noted the NACCC surveys and *In It 6*. B&F mentioned regular work related to budgets and financial planning. The subcommittees reported that they continue to work to assess themselves, their work, and their modes of communicating effectively to the college community.

#### **5. Call for Agenda Items**

No new agenda items were raised.

#### **6. Other Business**

Collyer Vice President for Advancement Carey Anne Zucca stated that planning for celebrations of Skidmore's centennial is underway and will be marked by a series of events through the 2022-2023 academic year.

VP Woodfork shared updated information regarding the National Assessment of Collegiate Campus Climates (NACCC) Staff [Survey](#). As of Friday, April 1, more than half of Skidmore staff had participated. The College aims for 75% participation. The survey will be available through April 21. Details have been sent to staff by email.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02p.m.

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