

# INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

### MARCH 1, 2024

**Present:** Marc Conner (Chair), Tim Harper, Masako Inamoto, Dan Konstalid, Michelle Hubbs, Nathaniel Lowell '24, Josh Maxwell '26, Dorothy Mosby, Lori Parks, Beth Post, Jess Ricker, Tarah Rowse, Rodrigo Schneider, Joseph Stankovich, Dwane Sterling, Smriti Tiwari (Vice Chair), Amy Tweedy, Sarah Delany Vero, Dominique Vuvan, Joshua Woodfork, Carey Anne Zucca.

**Absent:** Adrian Bautista and Elizabeth Stauderman.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Conner at 10:30 AM.

#### 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes February 16, 2024

After an addition, a motion was made to approve the meeting minutes for IPPC meeting on February 16, 2024. **The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.**

#### 2. Board of Trustees February Meeting Update

President Conner updated IPPC on the February Board of Trustees meeting, saying there was a dual focus at the Board meetings: first, on admissions and enrollment and the higher education landscape, and second, on the budget and finance implications within this landscape. The Board Chair described the topics discussed as “an environmental scan” in higher education. The Board meeting included major guest speakers Angel Perez, who is the head of National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC), and a Skidmore alum; as well as Sandy Baum, who is a former faculty member in our Economics Department, and Michael McPherson, who co-authored the book *Campus Economics: How Economic Thinking Can Help Improve College and University Decisions* (Princeton University Press, 2023) and multiple other books, and spoke of higher education finances. These speakers and topics provided an ideal foundation for strategic thinking and strategic planning.

A key part of the Board meeting was when VP for Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity Joshua Woodfork led a very effective round robin discussion with the Board and President’s Cabinet on strategic planning. Today, IPPC will participate in a similar strategic planning round table discussion and we will offer similar opportunities at today’s Staff and Faculty meetings. This is important when taking the next step in our campus-wide strategic planning conversation. The Budget. Finance and Infrastructure Committee of the Board met and reviewed what IPPC has reviewed in terms of the proposed Operating Budget parameters, the status of the developing budget for next year, and to some extent looking at the longer-term forecast. The Board was very supportive in response to the budget planning that is being put forward. President Conner will be sharing this information at the Staff and Faculty meetings later today, with more financial and budget detail at the community budget presentation next Wednesday, March 6.

### **3. Strategic Planning Roundtable Feedback**

Based on the topics we previously presented to IPPC, VP Woodfork explained that we ask for committee feedback on the topics via constituency tables (faculty, staff, and students). We are asking for impressions, input, sharpening, and what is missing. The committee feedback will help guide as we develop and consider our next *Strategic Plan*. IPPC spent an hour discussing the topics that have been generated by our multiple constituencies this year, which included: creativity and academic excellence, increasing endowment for need-based financial aid, the residential student experience, DEI, and sustainability.

### **4. FEC Committee Operations Audit and IPPC Subcommittees**

IPPC Vice-Chair Smriti Tiwari reminded IPPC subcommittee chairs and co-chairs to please engage with the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) committee audit as part of FEC's governance review. The audit responses are due on March 8, 2024. Vice Chair Tiwari offered to respond to any questions.

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

No new agenda items were raised.

### **6. Other Business**

Director of Sustainability Programs and Assessment Tarah Rowse asked to further clarify her comment from the February 16<sup>th</sup> IPPC meeting minutes when we discussed connectivity to the newly proposed baseball field. With the support of IPPC for providing her clarification to the meeting minutes, she offered the following new information:

“As we undergo new construction and renovation projects on Daniels Road, and in light of the Sarah B. Foulke Friendship Trails southern terminus being sited next to the stables, we may want to consider future access and connectivity options (beyond vehicular) from Skidmore's main campus to our auxiliary locations. Active transportation infrastructure, such as multi-use trails for walking and biking, promote community cohesion and support health, affordable, zero-emission ways to get around. As not all community members have vehicles, a connector trail would also improve safety and provide more equitable access to Daniels Road sites and activities.”

No other business was brought forth.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 AM.

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