INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2026

Present: Adrian Bautista, Marc Conner (Chair), Pablo Gomez, Patricia Hilleren, Raahim Latif Khan ’28, Daniel Konstalid, Dylan Kostbar ’28, Kerry Nelson, Ryan Overbey, Tarah Rowse, Joseph Stankovich, Elizabeth Stauderman, Natalie Taylor, Amy Tweedy, Sarah Vero, Joshua Woodfork, Murat Yildiz (Vice Chair), Aiwu Zhao.

Absent: Silvia Carli, Zhenelle LeBel, Jessica Ricker.

Zoom: Melissa Komora.

The meeting was called to order at 10:34 a.m.

1. **Approval of October 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

With no proposed changes, **the October 23, 2026 minutes were unanimously approved.**

2. **Mission Statement Project**

President Conner updated the committee on the progress of the College’s Mission Statement revision process, including mentioning the IPPC’s leadership role and the activities conducted since last spring such as an open forum, survey, committee discussion and workshopping, engagement with the Extended Cabinet, President’s Leadership Council, and the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning, “Faculty Voices,” and the Board of Trustees’ Strategic Planning Committee. President Conner outlined the upcoming steps, including feedback sessions with staff and faculty, the Student Government (SGA) Association Senate, the Alumni Council, another session with the Trustees, and a two-week public community comment period post-Thanksgiving Break, returning to the IPPC to seek endorsement, and seeking approval of the Board of Trustees at its February 2027 meeting. The hope is to announce the new statement after the Board vote and then to post it online. President Conner will share the revised Mission Statement version with the IPPC at the meeting on November 20.

3. **Higher Education Updates**

The committee continued its discussion of the August 2026 letter from Education Secretary Linda McMahon, “A National Call to Action to University Presidents and Governing Boards.” Members expressed concerns about the letter’s implications for federal funding and the administrative burden of compliance. Some participants viewed the letter as a document requiring careful consideration of how to respond without compromising federal funding, while others suggested it reflected broader public dissatisfaction with higher education. The group also explored the cultural and political factors behind the letter.

The group debated whether and how the College should respond. Some favored a neutral response to avoid risk, while others cautioned against surrendering to political pressure. President Conner suggested using the opportunity to demonstrate academic expertise and diversity of thought, emphasized the need to consider carefully the potential consequences of not responding, and suggested finding common ground rather than engaging in direct conflict with the federal administration. Participants also discussed whether to provide a detailed point-by-point response or take a more measured approach, favoring the latter.

SGA President Dylan Kostbar proposed collaborating with other colleges, potentially through the New York Six consortium or a larger group, to develop a joint response opposing the administration's message. The discussion highlighted concerns about academic freedom and faculty governance, with one participant noting that curriculum decisions (which are implicated in some of the 7 categories in the letter) are properly the business of faculty rather than presidents and boards of trustees.

President Conner thanked the committee for such robust deliberation on this complex topic. He will seek additional faculty feedback at the next "Faculty Voices" event on November 13.

4. Committee and Subcommittee Updates

VP of Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity Joshua Woodfork explained that the IPPC checks in with its subcommittees as well as some other groups and outlined three questions: membership, meeting schedules, and current work items.

The Subcommittee on Budget and Finance reported that its membership is complete and that it is working on budget education and planning for Fiscal Year 2028, with a budget workshop scheduled for the Board of Trustees in February. VP for Finance and Administration Dan Konstalid, who chairs the subcommittee, will flag if the subcommittee needs time on the December 4 or February 5 meeting agendas prior to the February Board budget workshop.

Institutional Effectiveness Specialist Amy Tweedy, who co-chairs the Subcommittee on Institutional Effectiveness (SIE), reported that the SIE has submitted its annual report and will share the 17-page report with the IPPC shortly. The SIE is continuing work on student success visualization tools and the data governance policy operating code, which will go to the President's Cabinet and then the IPPC, and on an audit of the alignment of the College's policies project that is based on the Middle States reaccreditation feedback and the Self-Study.

The Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) is proposing to move departmental long forms online and is working on a subcommittee for first-year travel seminars. CEPP Chair Ryan Overbey will propose a process for moving the long forms online to CEPP and will have the travel seminars subcommittee report out to CEPP on its proposal at the November 18 CEPP meeting.

The Space Planning Working Group is reviewing space requests, working on accessibility updates, and developing a classroom renovation form checklist. Co-Chairs Oscar Perez Hernandez and Dan Rodecker will meet with Chair of the [student] Subcommittee on ADA, Milo Bisgaier '28, and SGA President Kostbar to walk through how the working group operates and to share materials.

Other committees will provide updates at our next IPPC meeting. The group discussed the need to restructure some subcommittees to align with the current *2025-2030 Strategic Plan* and emphasized the importance of shared governance roles. The IPPC will reconvene to discuss the future of the Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship under shared governance.

5. Call for Agenda Items

President Conner outlined areas for future agenda items: state law changes impacting access to personnel records, IPPC Operating Code updates, committee processes, AI language document

(and maybe a presentation of the student AI survey results), budget matters, capital projects, Subcommittee on Institutional Effectiveness (SIE) Annual Report, updates from SGA, and Title VI and EEO compliance updates.

6. Other Business

VP of Human Resources and General Counsel Sarah Vero provided an update on a new New York State law regarding employee access to personnel records, noting potential challenges for faculty, including its potential impact on files related to promotion and tenure. She indicated that the College is working to determine the best approach to compliance. VP Vero will bring the law's implications to the IPPC once there is a better sense from a shared governance perspective and after consulting with the Dean of the Faculty's Office and the Faculty Executive Committee.

President Conner encouraged participation during the upcoming open forums for Dean of the Faculty candidates.

President Conner explained that the "comment period" for the AI language document will open on Monday, November 9 and end on Monday, November 23, and he will share the document with the IPPC at the November 20 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Summary document assisted by Zoom "Using Meeting Summary with AI."

Please advise the President's Office of any suggested changes to these meeting minutes.