INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 2026

Present: Adrian Bautista, Silvia Carli, Pablo Gomez, Patricia Hilleren, Raahim Latif Khan ’28, Daniel Konstalid, Melissa Komora, Zhenelle LeBel, Kerry Nelson, Ryan Overbey, Jessica Ricker, Tarah Rowse, Joseph Stankovich, Elizabeth Stauderman, Natalie Taylor, Sarah Vero, Joshua Woodfork, Aiwu Zhao.

Absent: Marc Conner (Chair), Murat Yildiz (Vice Chair).

Zoom: Dylan Kostbar ’28, Amy Tweedy.

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 a.m. by VP Joshua Woodfork.

1. **Approval of September 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

After one proposed change from Associate Professor and Chair of Philosophy Silvia Carli at the meeting and another from Chair of the Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) Chair Ryan Overbey, via email, **the September 25, 2026, minutes were unanimously approved.**

2. **Strategic Action Agenda (SAA) 2026-2027**

The committee reviewed the draft Strategic Action Agenda for the current academic year and discussed the process for presenting it to the Board of Trustees Strategic Planning Committee next Thursday.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Dylan Kostbar inquired about the timeline for addressing accessibility recommendations from the Task Force on Accessibility. VP Woodfork explained that the Task Force will present its recommendations to IPPC and the President’s Cabinet by Spring Break 2027 (so by March 12, 2027) and then they would likely be reviewed and acted upon in the spring semester, with the response work intended to align with the span of the *Strategic Plan 2025-2030*.

CEPP Chair Overbey provided an update on the Goals for Student Learning and Development (GSLD) project, noting that President Conner had attended a workshop on the mission statement and would be involved in future exercises to align the GSLD with the mission statement.
The committee endorsed the 2026-2027 Strategic Action Agenda. Cabinet will present the endorsed SAA to the Board of Trustees’ Strategic Planning Committee next week.

3. **Mission Statement Review Project**

The bulk of the meeting was a workshop on three draft mission statements. Small groups provided feedback on what they liked, found interesting, and suggested for improvement. Common themes included centering on the purpose of the statement, a preference for concise language, the value of terms such as “mind in hand” and “creativity,” and concerns about the clarity and accessibility of certain words and phrases for external audiences, such as prospective students and donors. The group discussed key elements including creativity, residential liberal arts education, with particular attention to making the language accessible to external audiences

while maintaining the College's distinctive character.

The committee identified several areas for improvement, including simplifying complex language, clarifying terms such as "yoking" and "manifold," and ensuring the statement reflects current institutional values. Members also discussed the importance of the mission statement reflecting the College's current identity and aspirations, particularly with current national sentiment on higher education, and considered which other campus groups should provide input on the drafts. Members were conflicted about the inclusion of "knowledge, truth, and beauty," and some suggested that only "knowledge" should remain.

Next steps include presenting the feedback from today's meeting to Chair Conner and Vice Chair Yildiz, conducting similar workshops with staff and faculty, exploring additional opportunities for student input, summarizing the feedback from all groups and sharing with IPPC, before finalizing a version to present to the Board of Trustees in February 2027.

4. **Call for Agenda Items**

No new items were introduced.

5. **Other Business**

No new business was brought forth.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

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

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