

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

April 17, 2015

10:30 a.m.

PRESENT: President Philip A. Glotzbach, Chair; Joerg Bibow, Vice Chair; Addison Bennett '16; Beau Breslin; Paul Calhoun; Bill Duffy; Sarah Goodwin; Samuel Harris '15; Karen Kellogg; James Kennelly; Wendy Kercull; Kathy Kinnin; William Lewis; Ting Li; Dan Nathan; Joseph Stankovich; Michael West; and Joshua C. Woodfork.

ABSENT: Mary Lou W. Bates; Barbara Black; Rochelle Calhoun; Michael Casey; Mehmet Odekon; and Viviana Rangil.

1. Minutes from April 3, 2015

IPPC approved the meeting Minutes from April 3, 2015.

President Glotzbach noted that today, April 17, 2015, is the last of three Accepted Candidates Days for students who were admitted to the Class of 2019. The other days were April 10 and 13. He thanked everyone who was involved in helping to enroll this entering first-year class.

He also mentioned that today was the Chittenden Falls micro-hydro plant ribbon-cutting ceremony, showcasing one of Skidmore's partnerships for sustainability. The ceremony will include a tour of the plant and will be attended by a busload of Skidmore students, faculty, staff, and trustees.

2. Task Force on Divestment Final Report

Resolution

“Whereas those

1. General Education Review and Reform
2. The FYE, the Sophomore Experience, and Beyond College
3. Physical and Digital Spaces for Integrative Learning
4. Diversity, Inclusion, and Integrative Learning
5. Responsible Communities: Civic Engagement, Sustainability, and Value Ethics.

The five working groups are engaged in writing their sections of the self-study, with drafts of their chapters/sections due Monday, April 20, 2015. Challenges ahead include stitching together the chapters from the working groups, achieving College-wide “buy-in” for the self-study document, building enthusiasm from the community around this process, and document-preparation work. Next steps in the process call for receipt of the next drafts by the co-chairs, review of the draft document by the steering committee, and appointment of the visiting team chair, who will then schedule and lead the team visit. By the beginning of the fall semester, we will have a completed draft of the self-study for the community to vet, and the documentation review will be fully prepared, with the supporting evidence for the compliance standard documents also ready for review. These three pieces will occur in early fall, and the team visit will happen in the spring.

Questions about the team chair and visiting team were fielded. Shortly, we expect the Middle States Commission to let us know who will serve as our team chair. As we approach the next steps, it will be important to connect our institutional planning efforts around Middle States Reaccreditation, the next *Strategic Plan*, and the General Education curriculum review, including having the Board of Trustees’ review the self-study draft during its October 2015 meeting. The goal is to finalize the self-study by mid-December 2015. More information on the Middle States Reaccreditation process may be found at its website:

<http://www.skidmore.edu/assessment/accreditation15-16/index.php>

6. Update on Budget for FY ’16 and New Initiatives

Vice President for Finance and Administration Michael West distributed to IPPC a listing of New Initiatives for inclusion in the FY 2016 budget. The original target for New Initiatives was set at \$500,000, and the recommendation the IPPC Budget and Finance Subcommittee is bringing forward includes requests totaling \$700,000, though the requests originally received from President’s Cabinet members totaled over \$3 million. The funding for the \$200,000 difference in the original target for New Initiatives to the current recommendation will come from negotiated savings on electricity and gas purchases. Vice President West provided a brief update on financial aid for the entering class (2019), explaining that we may be over our budgeted financial aid by approximately \$300,000, which translates into \$1.2 million over four years. Depending on enrollments for the first-year class, which need to be received by May 1, 2015, this figure could end up being lower or higher.

Based on the New Initiatives materials, questions were asked related to the following items: a proposed new tenure-track line in Academic Affairs and the start of HELIOS; two new positions in Finance and Administration, which includes hiring an investigator related to Title IX cases and someone related to support in managing services related to our Unions, employees

wellness initiatives, and health care reform; Student Services,