Results of the 2012 Retiree Interest Survey

In early summer 2012 the Retiree Initiative Group constructed a web-based survey to assess the level of interest among Skidmore retirees in remaining connected to Skidmore, and to determine the types of interaction that seemed most attractive. An email with a link to the survey and an invitation to respond was sent to all Skidmore retirees for whom HR has an address. The survey collected 107 responses of which 51% were from faculty and 49% from staff; most of the respondents had retired between 2000 and 2009. As promised in the initial invitation, the following is a brief summary of the survey results.

The survey included questions in a number of categories, along with opportunities to include suggestions for activities or events that could appeal to retirees. The questions offered a choice of responses from 1 (low) to 5 (high)

informational workshops, with 64% of the staff and 29% of faculty indicating a 4-5 level of interest. Suggestions for workshop topics included in ranking order: travel; new technologies; Medicare and other health issues; elder law; senior living.

<u>Getting Involved</u>

The majority of the respondents (84%) live within 50 miles of campus, with little difference between faculty and staff respondents. Nearly half of the respondents indicated that activities for retirees could be scheduled anytime, although there was a clear preference for fall, followed by summer and spring.

The survey asked for the level of interest in events that might be organized specifically for retirees. Favorites among these suggestions were: SPAC events; bus trips to cities within 3 hours of Saratoga; visits to area museums or historical sites; Home Made Theater performances.

Follow-up

The Retiree Initiative planning group will use these results to plan future events and enhance resources such as the website. Additional suggestions are always welcome and may be addressed to Terry Diggory, tdiggory@skidmore.edu.