INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2010

PRESENT: Mary Lou Bates, Rochelle Calhoun, Michael Casey, Winston Grady-Willis, Ann Henderson, Kim Marsella, Muriel Poston, Jeff Segrave, Michael West, Mary Cogan, Susan Bender, Raina Bretan, James Welsh, Hugh Foley, Anne Petruzzelli, and Barbara Krause (Secretary).

ABSENT: President Philip P 9A Tm[(Kim M)-o [TBT

excellent student body, with diversity as a component of that excellence, or for other purposes. The model with the lower comprehensive fee increase, on the other hand, offers a more affordable comprehensive fee for a broader range of families and the opportunity to move down on the li a result that the Admissions Office would welcome. (It was noted, however, that this result is not assured, since it depends on actions by other colleges that are not, and cannot be, known to Skidmore.)

- It was noted that some community members may question why we would have such a low increase in the comprehensive fee rather than including additional money for a general salary adjustment. Again, Admissions officers report anecdotally that high cost has increasingly been mentioned as a concern among potential applicants, their families, and high school guidance counselors.

- A member of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee also expressed support for the lower comprehensive fee increase as a reasonable balance between providing the opportunity to attract more applicants and provide a reasonable financial aid budget. Vice President West noted that, in this model, the dollars allocated for financial aid and the financial aid discount rate are significantly higher than estimated for the current year.

- One member expressed support for providing new initiative money that would allow the conversion of non-tenure track to tenure track lines among the faculty.

One member asked how the College prioritizes various competing goals, noting that a higher comprehensive fee would provide a tangible resource for new initiatives, whereas a lower comprehensive fee increase would provide the more intangible benefit of possibly making the College more affordable to a broader range of applicants. Mr. West noted that the weighing of those priorities happens in discussions with the President and Cabinet, with IPPC (both the Budget and Finance Subcommittee and the full committee), and ultimately with the Board of Trustees.

Other points made during the discussion included the suggestion that we should consider additional research to determine why our application numbers are dropping. It was noted that Skidmore continues to require an application fee, generating approximately $250,000 per year in revenue, and potentially ensuring that those students who do apply have a stronger interesl/F4 12 Tf1 0 0 1 482.(

initiatives, the College will either need to enroll more students or increase tuition. This suggests that at some point, the College will need to return to the final optimization question.

Finally, it was noted that students have heard concern among their classmates as to whether they can continue to afford Skidmore. In that regard, a lower comprehensive fee increase is preferable.

3. Scribner Village Replacement Update

Dean of Student Affairs Rochelle Calhoun referred members to the materials that were distributed in advance of the meeting. She noted ongoing cost challenges to bring forward this important project. At this point, cost estimates regarding pre-design planning are estimated at approximately $36 million for the core program (i.e., not including the Health and Wellness facility). Having provided IPPC with an update at the previous meeting, Dean Calhoun invited questions and comments. Feedback included the following:

- *Will there be a hidden cost of delaying the Health and Wellness facility?*
  Vice President West acknowledged that the new residence hall would be occupied and the staging would be more complicated if construction of the Health and Wellness Center is delayed, but he does not believe these additional costs would be insurmountable. (Whether the Health and Wellness Center goes forward is largely dependent upon fund raising.) Dean Calhoun and Vice President West both agree that ideally, the Health and Wellness Center would be constructed as part of the first phase.

- *Do the four-bedroom suites in the traditional residence hall add to the cost?*
  Yes, but there is a programmatic payoff. Skidmore currently provides very few opportunities for inter-class interactions and, according to the input from our architects and others, has fewer housing options than many of our peers. The existence of suites in the residence hall would encourage more upperclassmen to live in the same building occupied by underclass students in singles and doubles. Those residing in the new residence hall will be required to have at least a partial meal plan.

In response to a question regarding timelines, it was noted that the Board of Trustees will consider these materials in February with the administration recommending authorization to

IPPC Minutes

Minutes prepared by Barbara Krause. Please notify of any changes.