Committee of Committees Report
Thursday, April 17\textsuperscript{th}, 2014
12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

In attendance: Peter von Allmen, CEPP Chair; Natalie Taylor, IPPC Vice-Chair; Crystal Moore, CAFR Chair; Shirley Smith, CC Chair and FDC Member; Kyle Nichols, (next year’s) CAPT Chair, Katie Hauser, CAS Chair; Carol Chiarella, Athletic Council Chair; Charlene Grant, IPPC Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship Member; Mary Crone Odekon, FWWG Chair; Joerg Bibow, Silvia Carli, Ting Li, Mehmet Odekon, Paul Sattler, FEC Members.

Here reported are chairs’ reports of committee work primarily for spring 2014 semester but, sometimes, extending over the full 2013-2014 academic year.

• CAFR
  • CAFR’s and TRB’s operating codes do not allow for direct communication between these two committees. CAFR thinks that on some occasions during this past semester such communication would have been useful. CAFR asserts that the operating code should be amended accordingly to provide for some mechanism whereby the two committees could communicate and coordinate their efforts on behalf of candidates. CAFR would like to ascertain their powers and responsibilities, which do not seem to reach beyond making recommendations.
  • The ensuing discussion highlights that it may be advisable to keep the two committees working in parallel, as there is a clear separation with regard to the responsibilities of these two committees (CAFR: checking rights violations; TRB: appealing tenure cases). CAFR maintains that there are situations in which candidates are best served if the committees can directly communicate.
  • The possibility is considered whether a candidate may waive the right of privacy.

• IPPC Subcommittee on Responsible Citizenship (SRC)
  • SRC is moving forward regarding the civic engagement website (marketing, logo, etc.), making the website more visible campus wide for incoming students.
  • Work continues on conceptualizing the designation of courses in the master schedule as service learning or community-based research. An online application form was set up for designating courses, facilitating the process whereby students can identify such courses and enhance continuity in their studies.
  • Civic engagement has high priority for general education curriculum changes.

• AC
• One concern brought to the attention of the AC is that many students (both athletes and non-athletes) are required to take exams outside of the documented course meeting time as posted by Registrar’s Master Schedule, prompting the AC to contact CEPP. The concern is that students do not know about the mandatory out-of-class time obligations until after the first day of class. The challenge extends beyond just a few classes and CEPP is reviewing the situation. The hope is that in future, students (from all disciplines) will be informed of any required activities taking place outside the regular class schedule at the time of registration rather than first day of class.

• There is also concern about the lack of resources necessary to keep the fields operational (a problem made worse by the inclement weather). As a result, Athletic staff had to work on the maintenance of the fields. The solution of these problems is beyond the scope of AC. AC will be in touch with the committees that have the authority to address them.

• NCAA recruitment presents another potential problem that is beyond the scope of AC’s authority. Other schools have started recruiting students from 9th grade, whereas Skidmore does not. This might put our College at a disadvantage.

• More resources are needed in order to remain competitive with other Division III schools comparable to Skidmore.

• AC is discussing the possibility of creating a more stable and official structure of faculty representatives for student-athletes (for advising etc.). The Committee is studying what peer institutions are doing in this area.

• CAS
  • For the most part CAS has been engaged in ordinary, routine work during this academic year.
  • The only new issue that has recently come up is the possibility of waving foundational college requirements. The Committee will work on this next year.
  • CAS works well with other committees— in particular, the meeting with CEPP on the possibility of waving foundational college requirement was very productive—as well as with the administration, although at times the response from the administration has been slow.
  • Members of CAS are very satisfied with the work they do, in part because— unlike other committees that work on long-term projects—CAS makes decisions whose results are visible right away.

• CEPP
• Reports that working relationship with administration has been good.
• The Athletic Committee passed onto CEPP the complicated issue regarding student athletes who have conflicting responsibilities. More than exams, the issue also concerns Saturday field trips, exhibitions, performances, and other "mandatory" requirements from academic classes.
• CEPP also worked on an All-College Requirement issue that it received from CAS.
• Work on the General Education reform was the major agenda item of the semester, culminating in the recent faculty round table discussions. Over 50 people attended and/or offered opinion about the proposal as it now stands. CEPP will have a final GE retreat on May 14th.
• CEPP has been particularly burdened by turnover. Peter von Allmen was the only continuing member of CEPP and thus the de facto chair.
• For a time, there was concern that in 2014-15 an untenured member of the faculty may have to serve as chair of CEPP or that Peter would have to chair two years in a row -- both situations unreasonable (especially during a period of important general education reform).

• IPPC
  • The spring semester has been relatively quiet.
  • IPPC was/is engaged in routine work on annual budget and strategic planning.
  • In the upcoming weeks IPPC will hear from CIGU on the climate survey.
  • Students would like to see the minimum wage increased for student-workers and are working on a new anti-hazing policy.
  • Members of the Skidmore community were informed via email about adopted changes to the Campus smoking policy.
  • IPPC agreed on the Annual strategic action agenda while the process leading to the new Strategic Plan is on its way.

• FDC
  • Regarding working relationship with the administration, FDC had some concerns about this relationship, and faculty met separately to discuss our responsibilities and the role of administrators in the group. We reported back to the full committee. The issue has been resolved.

• CC
• Regarding working relationship with the administration, Curriculum Committee has found the participation of administrators extremely beneficial in recreating institutional memory.

• CAPT
  • Worked well with the administration as well as with TRB and TAC.

• FWWG
  • Continued in the spring semester on working on faculty workload issues, making sure that the committee would not do the work of other committees such as CAPT and FEC. The relations with the administration and other committees were cordial.

• FEC
  • Apart from fulfilling its routine duties FEC was able to focus its attention on governance reform this semester, building on its comparative research done in the fall and preliminary ideas presented at the Academic Summit in January. Additional meetings were held on the issue, including representatives from the FWWG. Following the Committee of the Whole discussion at the 4/5 Faculty Meeting FEC invited the Faculty to an open forum on 4/11. FEC received feedback from numerous faculty members.
  • FEC has continued working on Faculty Governance reform in light of the feedback received and amended its original proposal accordingly.
  • Much progress has been made with regard to the first two parts of the reform proposal, the cycle and the council. Work will continue next year focusing on part three, committee restructuring.
  • Working relations with the administration and other committees have been very productive and cordial.

As in the fall semester, and as stated in the FEC notes on the December Committee of Committees meeting (see http://www.skidmore.edu/governance/documents/CoC-Meeting-11dec13-NOTES.pdf), the committees confirmed that working relations with the administration and relations among the committees were generally healthy and very productive in the spring semester as well. Only two minor instances (CAS and FDC) were reported. The Faculty Executive Committee wishes to thank all its colleagues for the invaluable work they do on behalf of us all. In addition, we wish to thank the chairs for the opportunity to discuss FEC’s governance reform proposal at the spring Committee of Committees meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Joerg Bibow (FEC chair).