

Good afternoon,

I understand the seriousness of the issue before us, and I want to begin by saying again, as I did in my August 16 memo that I should have communicated earlier and more effectively about the bridging of Student and Academic Affairs. I should have consulted more broadly on a variety of issues that now have led to this entanglement. I have always found the shared governance model at Skidmore to be a powerful one, and be it CEPP, CAPT, and now IPPC and FEC –whatever committee—it is the job of those colleagues who offer their services in the cause of community to interrogate issues that fall under the purview of their committee’s charge. Whatever conversations are going on beyond my earshot, FEC is charged with a serious mission, and it is taking that mission seriously. My own conversations with the Committee have been open, candid, useful, serious, non-antagonistic, and conducted in the spirit of reaching a resolution that will allow all of us to move forward.

I want to walk through the process that surrounds the Dean of Studies Study Group and my own involvement. The Study Group was established in June of 2004 and concluded its work last December. A report was presented to my office but it was not widely distributed. It should have been. John Brueggemann co-chaired the Study Group and apprised me fairly regularly on what apparently were animated discussions. Perhaps I should have co-chaired that Study Group, but it was a hectic year for reasons I probabTd

Group’s endorsement—although I did understand that some
I read the report, discussed it with JB and others, and endo
one way to begin the bridging, formally, of Student and Ac
say, that for all the controversy that has now emerged, and
added, I still deeply believe that Skidmore needs to build th
a venture that is on virtually every national conference age
wanted to create at this pivotal moment was a deflection av
issue’s importance because of concerns of process. I still h
already doing—explore the fundamental questions of rigor
campus is dealing with in terms of a healthy and collaborat
Student and Academic Affairs. I would welcome this topic
discussions throughout this year.

The report’s recommendations –as I read them—suggested
one in Academic Affairs and one in Student Affairs. This v
collaboration. The DOS office would continue to include v
advising/mentoring, academic standing, academic integrity
would address tutoring, student opportunities with potentia
Career Services. Now, I am old enough to know that the de
details, I also understand, are still very much under scrutiny

I want to recall, as be

