

September 9, 2005 Faculty Meeting Statement
By Timothy Burns, Chair of FEC

The Preamble to Part Two of the Faculty Handbook states that “Skidmore College is committed to the principle of shared governance. Shared governance recognizes...the unique role that faculty play in institutions of higher learning by virtue of their special knowledge, experience, interests, and values.” The Preamble further states that “Faculty governance is...especially concerned with those subjects for which faculty members have primary responsibilities.” It lists among those subjects “academic standards” and “educational policy and curriculum.” Finally, the Handbook notes that participation in faculty governance aims at “advancing the quality of academic life across all the disciplines at Skidmore.” The Handbook echoes in this regard AAUP Guidelines for the central role of the faculty in determining educational policy matters, including educational matters within Student Affairs

In light of this, FEC believes that the recent changes in the structure of the Dean of Studies office and in Student Affairs constitutes an administrative preemption of consultation as we have traditionally understood the term in college governance. FEC will soon issue an out-report on the problems that it has found in this process. It wishes to note for now that the administration had in its possession since December a copy of the Report of the Dean of Studies Study Group, and despite its claims to have consulted with faculty, it failed to share that Report with

Presented with a fait accompli, and recognizing the sincerity of apologies from the administration for its mistakes in process and in its misstatements, and given assurances from the administration that it will use the new governance structure to consult with faculty and to prevent such preemption of consultation, FEC, together with the VPAA and the Dean of Student Affairs, has proposed