



- o Larger changes to the SGA Constitution (i.e. regarding membership, representation, structure, and mission of SGA institutions) require a vote from the SGA Senate and the Student Body.
  - o Part Three of the Faculty Handbook is subdivided into two sections: all-college committees are listed in section I, and SGA committees are listed in section II.
  - o Currently, the Integrity Board is the only SGA Committee listed in Part Three of the Faculty Handbook.
  - o Changes to Part Three of the Faculty Handbook require approval by the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC), IPPC, and the SGA.
- x In Fall 2005, FEC brought forward a motion requesting reconstitution of Integrity Board as an all-college committee. SGA would have lost its mandate over Integrity Board, if this motion had passed. The rationale for this motion noted that the Appeals Board is an all-college committee. In an e-mail dated 09/30/05, The SGA Executive Committee responded to FEC as follows: "While understanding FEC's rationale to make Integrity Board an all-college committee, the Executive Committee of SGA would like Integrity Board to remain under the purview of SGA for the 2005-2006 academic year. One goal of 2005-2006 Executive Committee Action Agenda is to create a tri-partite-structured, but student-chaired initiative committee that will examine honor at Skidmore. Since the Integrity Board and honor are inherently linked, SGA would like to continue to have control over the governance of Integrity Board when examining this issue."
- x The Preamble of the SGA Constitution states, "We, the students of Skidmore College, operating under the authority granted by the Board of Trustees, unite in the formation of the Skidmore College Student Government Association." This authority, granted by the Board of Trustees, extends to SGA's institutions, including the Integrity Board. Historically, judicial power has been vested in the Student Government. From 1925-1926, judicial power was vested in the College Government Association (SGA's predecessor) in Article VI of its constitution.
- x From Spring of 1999- Spring 2000 an Honor Code Discussion Group, chaired by Don Hastings, met to evaluate the Honor Code and Judicial System of Skidmore College. SGA recognizes that this group was also formed to discuss the lack of student involvement with the judicial process. There was student representation on the discussion group that included Delby Swarmstedt, the Honor Code Educator at the time.
- x In Spring 2000, the Honor Code Discussion Group voted to streamline the Academic and Social Integrity Boards into one Integrity Board. While there had been open forums hosted by the discussion group, the Student Body did not vote on this change. Since the streamlining of Integrity Boards is a structural change, it ought to have been voted on by Senate, the Student Body and the Faculty. This

Fall 2005, Senate, the Student Body, and faculty finally voted to streamline the Integrity Board. However, the Student Handbook was changed back in the 2000-2001 academic year without this consent. The Student Handbook does not concern governance structures of the College.

- x In Spring 2001, the Honor Code Discussion Group voted that a restorative justice philosophy be followed in the processes of the Integrity Board. SGA recognizes that there was some community discussion (a presentation in the 2000 academic festival and two open forums in the Spring of 2000). However, a resolution was not brought to Senate concerning this philosophical change.
- x Restorative justice presents complications for a system that values Honor. The honorable community is a vertical system in which there are honorable and dishonorable people, defined by honorable

The dean of student affairs in conjunction with the Student Government Association establishes an Academic Integrity Board...

The "dean of student affairs" replaced the "The College Administration." In addition, the section on the "College Judicial System" of the Student Handbook was changed extensively and included the following new statement:

The Student Government Association (SGA) appoints student members of the board, the Committee on Faculty Governance (CFG) appoints faculty members of the board, and the Director of Student Affairs [DOSA] appoints staff members to the board.

SGA recognizes that the Dean of Student Affairs is vested by the President of Skidmore College and the Board of Trustees to be administratively responsible for student discipline. Yet, SGA also contends that the Integrity Board is listed as an SGA Committee in the Faculty Handbook. SGA's authority is not limited to appointing representatives to the Integrity Board.

- x The 1999-2000 Student Handbook describes the duties of the Judicial Council (JC):

The Dean of Studies serves as Chair to the AIB (Academic Integrity Board), the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs serves as JC to the SIB (Social Integrity Board), the Dean of Studies the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs serves as JC to the AHB (Administrative Hearing Board) and the Dean of Student Affairs serves as Chairperson to the BOA (Board of Appeals).

The Judicial Counsel serves as the college community resource person for matters regarding hearing policies and procedures and the College judicial process. The JC receives violation reports and acts as the complainant's advisor in the preparation of a case hearing. In this role, the JC helps the complainant and presents the case to the respective Board on behalf of the complainant. It is the obligation of the JC to provide the main pieces of information to the Board at the time of the hearing. The JC does not participate in the Board's deliberative process or the final decision. The JC acts as Administrative Advisor to the Student Chairperson, ensuring that hearing procedures are properly followed.

Although, the Judicial Counsel is non-voting member of the Integrity Board, this position is described as integral to the process.

in the SGA Constitution ~~of~~ Faculty Handbook that this is the official process in choosing college staff.

x In a "Statement of Concern" dated 10/01 to Pat Oles, Don Hastings, and Jon

Again, the Student Government Association respectfully requests that the Dean of Student Affairs acknowledge that Integrity Board is a *Student Government Association Committee*. Student consent in these policies is not a mere courtesy, but a necessity. In order to have any student ownership of the Honor Code, students must have ownership of its primary institution of enforcement, the Integrity Board. While Integrity Board has been somewhat more efficient in the last few years, the Skidmore Student Community still struggles with a universal code of Honor.

Moreover, the Student Government Association would like to strengthen the Integrity Board through an Honor-based justice system. SGA would like to proactively foster a sense of Honor and Justice at Skidmore College. Realizing that an Honor-based justice system can be the most fair justice system, SGA would like to build a more Honor-focused Integrity Board combined with the community participation of restorative justice. SGA will achieve these ends through better institutional links between Senate and the Integrity Board. Additionally, SGA would like to play the primary role in revising a training program for Integrity Board. This report would like to make the following recommendations to the Senate for approval:

- o SGA will require that all st

position. The IB Co-Chair will not be required to sit on any senate committees. SGA Constitution will reflect this change.

- o By Fall 2006, The Executive Committee will nominate two IB members to sit on the Honor Code Commission. Senate will approve this nomination. Currently, this is already mandated by the SGA Constitution and the Faculty Handbook. SGA will ensure that this is executed.
- o The Honor Code Commission will be open to Senators-At-Large as an all-college committee that fulfills their committee requirements.
- o By the end of the Spring 2006 semester, SGA will create a steering committee to design an Honor-focused training program and Honor-focused procedures for Integrity Board members. This program will be developed throughout Summer 2006. Senate will immediately consider recommendations for Integrity Board procedures and training program in Fall 2006. Membership of this steering committee will include: The Honor Code Educator as Chair, the SGA Vice President for Academic Affairs, The Associate Dean of Studies, the Associate Dean of Student Affairs or the Dean of Student Affairs and an appointed professor from the Government Department. With Senate's approval, SGA will consider giving stipends to faculty and administration that dedicate their time.
- o SGA asks this steering committee to consider developing uniform essay questions for all offenders. These essay questions will ask the offender to reflect upon the negative effects their negative actions pose to Honor and the community. For example, offenders who have been found in violation of the Skidmore Code of Conduct must write an essay answering two questions: How is my action dishonorable? Why is honor important to the community?

Student ownership of the Integrity Board is essential for student ownership of Honor at Skidmore College. Better collaboration between the SGA Senate, Honor Code Commission, and the Integrity Board will become necessary in strengthening student oversight of the Integrity Board judicial processes. SGA is hopeful that the above recommendations will invigorate Honor and a better sense of community. SGA looks forward to working in conjunction with faculty and administration to strengthen Honor and Skidmore's judicial processes in the future. But the determination of those processes is, and must remain, in the hands of the SGA.