

A thought experiment: governance at Skidmore
--from the Faculty Executive Committee, April 2013

During the past three years, FEC has heard concerns from the faculty regarding workload issues. As we all know, our work at Skidmore is evaluated by three criteria: teaching, scholarship/creative productivity, and service. Though “service” is more broadly construed than “governance,” FEC—as the governance oversight committee—would like the faculty to think about how we do governance at Skidmore, a key part of our “service.” Regarding governance, the two particular concerns that FEC hears most often pertain to fairness and visibility. Do the faculty fairly share the workload of governance? And is this sort of service to the College visible, valued—and how does it factor into tenure and promotion decisions, and how much is expected of each of us? Indeed, FEC notes that these sorts of concerns are consistent with the national conversation about 21st-century faculty workload. In sum, what *is* the work of the faculty (noting that administration and faculty have important but distinct roles at the college)?

0/*thlluyonaTjve
Academic Summit. That Summit has now led us to suggest this C
discussion on governance. What follows is a “thought experiment
ways to govern at Skidmore. FEC has no horse in this race; indeed
may have their favorites from the options below. And of course, th
But we felt that such a document could help prompt and/or guide o

This discussion will give next year’s FEC a clearer sense of the fac
change (or not). This discussion might also aid the Faculty Workl
work this summer. And FEC believes that having this discussion h
our commitment to our current way of doing governance and imag
models.

Here, then, are some options for governance at Skidmore:

OPTION A: Keep the governance structure as is at Skidmore.

OPTION B: Keep the governance structure as is at Skidmore, is no longer the question as to whether you wish to serve, but the option would keep the automatic rotation into and out of service but not change our current committee structure.

OPTION C: Keep the governance structure largely as is at Skidmore, but streamline. For example, the purview of the FAB could expand

At the Faculty Meeting, there will be a monthly report from the Faculty Senate, given by one of the two Faculty Leaders. Thus, another key part of their position is to facilitate communication as well as to advance work that needs to be done to keep the college moving forward.