

Faculty Meeting
March 27, 2015

MOTION

The Committee on Educational Policies and Planning (CEPP) and the Institutional Planning and Policy Committee (IPPC) moves that the faculty recommend to the administration that Skidmore terminate its Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program (MALS) program; and that the process of termination extend for a reasonable period of transition to allow currently enrolled students to complete their degree requirements.

RATIONALE

The MALS program has been the subject of study for several years. The program conducted a self-study in 2012 and in the same year an External Review was conducted. At the beginning of 2014 and as a response, in part, to the 2012 External Review Team Report that acknowledges that "Skidmore's MALS program is at a crossroads due to significant institutional and program changes..., especially given recent administrative changes, turn-over, reorganization, and centralization, as well as a significant decline in the applicant pool," CEPP chartered a subcommittee to examine the program. Deputed the Committee on Educational Policy and Planning Subcommittee on Skidmore College Master of Arts in Liberal Studies (CSMP), its general mission was to "make recommendations to CEPP regarding the future direction of MALS programming."

CEPP received a report from CSMP in January 2015. Since then, the committee has had the chance to closely examine and deliberate upon the report's results and recommendations. It has also shared and discussed the report with the Dean of Special Programs, Paul Calhoun, and with the membership of the college's Institutional Planning and Policy Committee.

CEPP unanimously concludes that, as a matter of educational and institutional policy, the continuation of the MALS program is not in the College's best long-term interests. Closing MALS, while painful and difficult, is appropriate and responsible. CEPP does advise, however, that the College consider the role of graduate studies in its future strategic planning.