

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 1, 2021

PRESENT: Mary Lou Bates, Adrian Bautista; Joerg Bibow, Vice Chair; Marc Conroy, Chair; Michelle Hubbs; Jina Mao; Donna Ng; Diane O'Connor; Jason Ohlberg; Michael Orr; Lori Parks; Joe Porter; Rik Scarce; Kurt Smemo; Joseph Stankovich; Dwane Sterling; Smriti Tiwari; Amy Tweedy; Joshua Woodfork; and Carey Anne Zucca.

ABSENT: Marta Brunner, Interim SGAPresident Issy Mejia '23, vacant, SGA VP for Financial Affairs.

GUESTS: Assistant VP for Student Affairs and Director of Athletics and COVID-19 Logistics Working Group CoChair Gail Cummings-Danson.

The meeting was

3. FY'22 Budget

VP Ng addressed the FY '22 budget. She stated that the College again will be impacted by COVID-19 expenses and the loss of summer revenue. The FY'22 budget assumes regular in person operations for all of academic year (AY) 2021-2022, a 2.5% in general salary adjustment (GSA) for faculty and non-union staff, and 2% for union staff (negotiated via bargaining). In

addition is scheduled to be built on City land and subject to building guidelines. Restart of the project begins with approval from the Saratoga Springs City Council at its upcoming October 5, 2021 meeting.

IPPC members voiced concern over prioritizing this particular athletics project, and capital spending in a period where we are looking at staff and faculty cuts and financial challenges in the short term. President Conner remarked that current campus master planning work will enable Skidmore to acquire a tangible baseline sense of all our campus facilities, including access to the health, wellness, and athletic fitness needs for the whole campus community. He reminded the committee of the pressures on admissions and the importance of facilities in recruitment, as well as the difficulty of comparing facilities needs across sports when there's so much variation in that area.

5. Calendar Year '22 Healthcare Premium Announcement of Rate

VP Ng provided an update on healthcare premiums for calendar year 2022. Beginning January 1, 2022, premiums for CY '22 will be increased by 8.1%. The last two years, the College capped the premium rate increase at 10%. Historically, employee premiums have increased at a rate of 5% but healthcare costs have risen dramatically recently.

VP Ng reminded IPPC that implementing recommendations from the Healthcare Working Group (HWG) will be done over a few years through FY '24. The implementation action plan was recently reviewed at the IPPC Budget and Finance Subcommittee meeting.

Thanksgiving Break scheduled for November 24 – 28. At this time expected that students will return to the campus and classroom post-break. Testing schedules for students are being worked out, as well as consideration of employee testing upon returning to campus. Currently the vast majority of students are being tested once a week. Monitoring of the testing is conducted via the coverified app at major access points on campus, including the Dining Hall and Athletics Center. The COVID-19 transmission rate in Saratoga County remains “high” as classified by the Centers for Disease Control requiring masking requirements and protocols for everyone, regardless of vaccination status.

It was asked if updated contact tracing data continued to show zero cases being traced back to classroom interactions. Chair Cummings Danson stated that data has shown no evidence that there is any transmission happening in the classroom. Transmission appears to be occurring in social settings either on or off-campus for students, and off-campus for faculty and staff. All faculty, staff, and students are urged to get tested if they are experiencing any COVID symptoms. VP Woodfork reminded IPPC of the social norms regarding COVID-19, how we use our own social sphere of influence to be influencers in keeping our community safe, remind folks of our institutional values, and of our collective responsibility to take care of one another.

IPPC members reported that faculty, staff, and students are incredibly excited about being back on campus. The enthusiasm from students and faculty in response to being back in the classroom is palpable. Students are excited about being able to engage face-in and out of the classroom. President Conner added that we are more interconnected than we may realize and as we continue to engage this semester in campus master planning to remember that our planning goes way beyond just bricks and mortar.

7. Other Business

VP Woodfork stated the IPPC meeting dates for the academic year 2021 have been posted to the IPPC website. He asked those who are chairing chairing subcommittees please review the posted membership information. He noted that these committees are still waiting for student members.

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