

## **The Residential Life Plan (RLP)**

This draft statement summarizes current planning for new residential, dining, and social facilities at Skidmore College. Its specific recommendations grow out of the work of a tripartite group formed in the fall of 2002. The plan incorporates recommendations from several reports – “The Distillation Report,” “The Plan for Skidmore,” the proposed “Academic Vision Statement,” “The Athletic Review Committee Report,” and “The Report of the Subcommittee on Academic Excellence” – and follows extensive conversations among students, alumni, faculty, staff, and trustees, most significantly conversations r

currently possible. Moore Hall's construction and locations impede its full use in the summer conditions in Scribner Village make attracting some potential users difficult and the current space available simply limits the possibility for new programs and growth in existing programming.

The general goals elaborated here support the College's



The College must implement the recommendations of the June 2002 program review of food service, especially those recommendations concerned with more flexible meal plans, including fuller use of a declining-balance or points system, improving the ambiance of the central dining hall, and serving a freshly prepared “fourth” meal.

## **Social Life**

Social life is critical to admissions, student satisfaction, and ultimately student engagement and excellence. It is the “informal” time when a student chooses to be with friends, most often between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. A 1996 report detailed numerous fine programs, many of them still in place, but noted several serious shortcomings in Skidmore social life – the connection between social life and alcohol, the need for a late-night informal social space that serves food, the difficulty in using certain locations on campus for larger social activities, and the need to support transportation for weekend outings.

Discussions about strategic planning, the student cultures project, and various surveys suggest that some of the problems with the social life at Skidmore have not changed in the last eight years. The \_\_\_\_\_ and the recent \_\_\_\_\_ remind us of how central alcohol and perhaps other drugs are to current social life at Skidmore. The renovations in Case Center have added office space for clubs and organizations, and the Burgess Café offers limited food service later in the evening than the service available in 1996. But the campus still lacks space for larger student gatherings and performances.

We believe that problems arise in part because of the definition of social life at Skidmore. Social life is often viewed as separate from academic and co-curricular life it is dependent on the student-administered activities fee and the College has invested little in social and recreational infrastructure or program. Two issues – common space and recreation facilities and programs – are the most frequently discussed shortcomings. We agree, but these are not the only issues. For example,



the community as a whole is not endorsing a more rigorous approach. Are we really asking all of our students in all of our classes to stretch, to struggle, to confront difficulties squarely?"

“The Disti

