

INSTITUTIONAL POLICY

3. SGA Update

SGA President Alexandra Stark '11

Glotzbach suggested that we are currently feeling the pinch of the larger student enrollment on campus this fall, but he emphasized that he has no preconceived notion of the “right answer” to the optimization question.

Comments and questions from IPPC members included the following:

- The process is important. We must consider what information is required so that the community can be well informed about the strategic context and impact of this decision.
- How much revenue does the College need each year to provide the educational experience we desire for our students? If we enrolled our targeted entering class each year, would we have sufficient money to fund that experience, or do our aspirations require more revenue (and, therefore, more students)?
- In three years, when the Scribner Village replacement is complete, what will be our residential capacity, and is that capacity consistent with our budgeted enrollment number?
 - Is our currently stated goal of being 90% residential still an appropriate goal?
 - How do we calculate our current residential capacity, taking into account that in recent years, significant space has been altered to address overcrowding?
- How has the College used over enrollment funds in recent years? Have those funds, derived from a larger student population, allowed the College to get better? In other words, although the College has been disciplined about keeping over enrollment revenue “below the line,” how essential is over enrollment revenue to the College’s delivery of our educational program within our established operating and capital budgets?

'13). It is his expectation that the group will make a recommendation to IPPC, which will then be considered, in turn, by the Cabinet, the President, and the Board of Trustees.

- There was some conversation about whether IPPC could work more quickly to frame the questions and begin work during the spring of 2011, thus allowing recommendations to be made to the Board of Trustees in February 2012. Others suggested that the work could be controversial, so that framing and the process are very important and worthy of the additional time.
- An important part of this work will be to communicate well within the campus community.
- It was suggested that it will be important to decide the basic framework for the conversation. Trying to imagine Skidmore five years from now is a different project than asking whether we could continue to live with enrollment at the current level.
- One IPPC member asked about the role of the Board of Trustees in this process. President Glotzbach indicated that the Board's Strategic Planning Committee has expressed a desire to be involved in these conversations, and he believes that we should strongly consider including a Trustee member in the Optimization working group. In the end, the Board will need to be more fully involved in the discussion and will need to approve this major planning parameter.
- It was noted that we currently have a transition with the appointment of a new Director of Institutional Research. The new Director will have an important role in this work.

President Glotzbach suggested that IPPC should decide what process and timeline are most appropriate, taking into account that the decision does affect the College's operating budget and the admissions targets that are defined each year.

President Glotzbach closed by expressing his confidence in and support of Susan Kress, who will serve as Acting President during his upcoming sabbatical. She will lead this work, including the discussions about process and timeline, in his absence.

5. Other

Vice Chair Hugh Foley expressed appreciation to President Glotzbach for his leadership and wished him well on his sabbatical. IPPC members expressed their support for these sentiments with a warm round of applause.