

FACULTY MEETING
December 4, 2009

MOTION

Rationale

Skidmore College is an institution with a long history of shared governance wherein the representatives of the faculty collaborate closely with administration in the creation and execution of the mission of the College. While there are many important committees that are central to, and in some cases required for, the continued functioning of the College, the elected and appointed governance committees are the critical vehicles that allow the faculty a central role in shaping the future of our institution. In particular, seven elected committees (CAFR, CAPT, CEPP, Curriculum Committee, FDC, FEC, and IPPC) are vital to the shared governance of the College and cannot function properly without strong faculty representation. A diverse pool of faculty expressing a willingness to serve on these committees is essential to a healthy governance process.

In recent years we have had insufficient numbers of faculty expressing a willingness to serve on the seven core governance committees. This has compromised the election process, and in some cases, the work of our governance committees. If the faculty is to continue to have a pivotal voice in college decision-making, we must increase faculty willingness to serve on these committees. While FEC is not proposing that expressing a willingness to serve on one of these committees makes sense for all faculty at all points in their career, service on these committees should be central in the discussions of service within departments and programs and should be prioritized at appropriate points in a faculty member's development.

Motion

FEC moves to insert the following sentence (*in italics*) at the end of paragraph 2b on page 122 of the Faculty Handbook:

This participation is not to be predominantly or exclusively equated with service on faculty committees, which is but one of a variety of service options available to faculty. *It should be recognized that service in the seven core governance committees (the Committee on Academic Freedom and Rights [CAFR], the Committee on Appointments, Promotions and Tenure [CAPT], the Curriculum Committee, the Committee on Educational Policy and Planning [CEPP], the Faculty Development Committee (FDC), the Faculty Executive Committee [FEC], and the Institutional Policy and Planning Committee [IPPC]) is particularly critical to maintaining the shared-governance system that is central to our institutional identity.*