

Minutes of IRC Meeting on February 18, 2005

In attendance: Tom O'Connell, Mary Beth O'Brien, Jo Devine, Patrick O'Rourke, Sarah Goodwin, Bob Jones, Jamie Aiello, David Hamilton, Suzi Kerr, Elizabeth Katzman, Jeff Beachy, Ann Henderson, Ruth Copans, Stephanie Van Allen, Susan Zappen, Stanley McGaughey, Beth DuPont, Michael West.

Old Business:

The minutes from February 4, 2005 were approved with a minor spelling correction.

New Business:

We agreed to the following schedule of scribes for future meetings:

- 3/4 – Beth DuPont
- 3/25 – Mary Beth O'Brien
- 4/1 – Ruth Copans
- 4/15 – Ann Henderson

We continued our discussion of the strategic plan. Sarah Goodwin began by summarizing a conversation she had with Phil Glotzbach regarding IRC's suggestion that information technology be mentioned prominently in the strategic plan. Phil liked the changes suggested by IRC and stated that the IRC planning document would be attached to the strategic plan.

Phil also indicated that the ideas expressed in Deb Hall's email would be incorporated into the strategic plan. Sarah noted that, while fine-tuning of the strategic plan was still possible, we needed to bring closure to the discussion.

We discussed the recommended additions to the strategic plan drafted by Bill Duffy, Ruth Copans, and Beth Dupont. The original suggestions were as follows:

➤ **Strengthen information resources**

(Note: Here we have inserted the recommendations of the IRC Plan (dated December 2001)

- Educate Skidmore community members regarding the rights and responsibilities of information citizenship.
- Promote information literacy training for all students, traditional and non-traditional.
- Provide support for the integration of technology into faculty teaching.
- Provide support for the technology required for faculty research and scholarship.
- Provide technology training and support for all members of the campus community.
- Create an effective and responsive technology infrastructure that is supportable, sustainable and scalable.

There was some discussion over wording:

- "information literacy" versus "information fluency".

There was a suggestion that "information fluency" would be a better phrase than "information literacy." After some discussion, there was a consensus that "literacy" would be more widely understood than "fluency".

- "traditional and non-traditional" in the second bullet.

We decided to drop the phrase after some discussion as to whether Special Programs was adequately considered in the strategic plan. It was decided that special programs could be addressed specifically in the more detailed section of the document.

- "training" vs. "education"

It was decided that the word "training" in the second bullet should be replaced by "education" or dropped completely since "literacy training" does not adequately reflect the idea that technology needs to be integrated into the curriculum. "Training", however, remains in the fifth bullet, where it was felt to be more appropriate since fifth bullet addresses the needs of staff as well as students.

We agreed to suggest to IPC that the following wording be added to the strategic plan right before the section beginning “Strengthen the sciences”:

➤ **Strengthen information resources**

- Promote the integration of technology into the work of the college.
- Educate Skidmore community members regarding the rights and responsibilities of information citizenship.
- Promote information literacy for all students.
- Provide support for the technology required for faculty research and scholarship.
- Provide technology training and support for all members of the campus community.
- Create effective and responsive technology services and infrastructure that are supportable, sustainable and scalable.

Ann Henderson read a draft of a paragraph to be included in the strategic plan that summarizes Deb Hall’s ideas. (There was much rejoicing.)

Several people spoke of the need for Skidmore to provide education in information technology that goes beyond simply training students to use certain tools. In particular, Skidmore needs to ensure that students become “critical” rather than just “capable” users of information technology.

Sarah Goodwin concluded with a question about how we can make sure that education in the responsible use of information technology is included in the curriculum. She suggested that we need to be able to point students to the specific place in the curriculum where they learn things such as what is and isn’t plagiarizing off the World Wide Web. David Hamilton noted that he had developed an information resources quiz in which students are asked to classify examples as either plagiarism or not. Sarah suggested that IRC take up this general topic at future meetings.