

## Committee on Admissions and Student Aid (CASA)

Annual Report 2000-2001

The Committee on Admissions and Student Aid met six times during the 12000 academic year. In addition to hearing reports from Mr. Lou Bates on admissions and Bob Shorb on student aid, the committee considered issues including how to best maximize its own usefulness as a channel of communication between the Admissions and Student Aid offices and the college as a whole. We also discussed the difficulties which non-experts experience when dealing with the numerous procedures and statistics surrounding these operations. To partially address this latter problem, the commitment was made to produce a "Handbook on Admissions and Student Aid" in the near future.

The bulk of the committee's time this year, however, was devoted to the important process of strategic planning. Three full meetings and portions of others were largely given over to those discussions. Included below are the final recommendation to President Studley from the committee:

In support of Goal 2: Strengthen the spirit and experience of community and diversity:

Overarching Objective: Greatly enhance the college's ability to provide need-based financial aid packages that are competitive with those of our peer institutions. In the view of our committee, increasing need-based aid to make Skidmore affordable to as broad a range of potential students as possible is the single most critical step towards strengthening the academic excellence and diversity of our community.

Related Important Objectives:

1. Develop the financial resources to make all admissions decisions without regard to financial need (i.e., "need-blind admissions").
2. Expand the merit aid program, but not at the expense of increasing need-based financial aid.

CASA Membership 2001-2002