

FACULTY MEETING
March 5, 2010

III. Motions: Big 7

A. Motion

FEC and CAPT jointly move to insert the following text (italic type) into the Faculty Handbook, Part One, Article VI, Section A. (Tenure-Track Faculty), under Community Service (page 107):

Participation in faculty governance is another important option requiring skills and commitment that answer the needs of the College. *In particular, and especially as it pertains to faculty with tenure, it should be noted that service in the seven core governance committees is critical to maintaining the shared-governance system that is central to the College's institutional identity. Those seven committees are 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].*

Rationale

Skidmore College is an institution with a long history of shared governance wherein faculty committee members and members of the administration cooperate together 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 careers, 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.

FEC's original motion has been revised as per a friendly amendment offered by CAPT. This amendment entails a change in discussions of service

