

## **RESOLUTION FOR THE ROLE OF THE FACULTY IN RECOMMENDING STUDENTS FOR SKIDMORE DEGREES**

### **Introduction:**

At the close of every academic year, at a special faculty meeting in May, the faculty routinely assembles to recommend (by vote) that the Board of Trustees approve the list of students qualified to receive their Skidmore degrees.<sup>1</sup> On a few occasions in the recent past, the faculty has debated the question of whether integrity infractions of a social (not academic) nature should preclude the awarding of honors, or, indeed, if sufficiently serious, the awarding of the degree itself. The Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) addressed itself to the question of honors for students who had committed social integrity violations and presented to the faculty at the May 2008 meeting their carefully considered conclusion that CAS “should not, and therefore will not, screen the list of students eligible for academic honors for social integrity violations in the way it does for academic integrity violations” (The “CAS Report on Academic Honors and Social Integrity Violations,” 14 May 2008). The CAS report did not, however, settle the question of whether integrity violations should be considered in the faculty vote to recommend qualified students for degrees or, indeed, the meaning and importance of the faculty vote in that process. This document attempts to clarify the role of the faculty in recommending students for their degrees, offers a series of resolutions for faculty conversation and endorsement, and points to the institutional process for determining matters that extend beyond the purview of Academic Affairs.

### **Be it resolved that:**

- The Faculty vote regarding the degree list is related specifically to the affirmation that the students on this list have met all academic requirements for the awarding of the degree. No asterisks should appear if the student has met all academic requirements.
- The documents generated for the Faculty Meeting therefore include a note as follows:

*The names on the list represent those students who have completed or are expected to complete by August 31 all the academic requirements for the Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degrees; names of students who are not expected to complete their academic requirements until August 31 are marked with an asterisk. Students who have not met all other requirements (including financial, academic integrity, and social integrity obligations) may have the diploma withheld.*

- the students’ names appear in the Commencement Bulletin in the same manner as they do in the documents for the Faculty Meeting, and that the Commencement Bulletin include a note as above.

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<sup>1</sup> An additional winter conferral recommendation meeting will be included following final Board of Trustees approval for a January degree conferral date.



to complete academic requirements in August of the same year, an asterisk is placed next to the name to denote the anticipated August completion date. If students indeed fulfill their academic requirements by August 31, the Registrar's Office will process diplomas and final transcripts for those students with the August 31<sup>st</sup> date.

The actual release of the diploma or final transcript to individual students by the Registrar's Office depends on students meeting all other College obligations – financial, academic integrity, and social integrity. A student may have the diploma and transcript held pending the resolution of financial obligations, or the satisfaction of any conditions or obligations that result from the College's judicial processes for academic and social integrity. If a student fails to clear his or her financial obligations or meet the obligations that result from the College's judicial processes for academic and social integrity, the Registrar's Office can hold the student's diploma and transcript indefinitely.

**Process for discussion of this resolution:**

- VPAA Staff
- President's Cabinet
- CEPP
- CAS
- Student Affairs sub-committee of IPPC
- Review by College Counsel
- Faculty discussion hosted by CEPP and CAS