

RPC Minutes  
April 7, 2006

Members Present

Faculty

Martin Gunderson (Chair)  
Duchess Harris  
James Heyman  
Andrew Latham  
Marjorie Merryman  
Vasant Sukhatme

Ex Officio

Dan Balik  
Diane Michelfelder

Students

Joe Reich  
Sandra Robson

Staff

Ron Joslin  
Brian Lindeman

Guest of Committee: Tommy Bonner

The minutes of the April 3, 2006 meeting were approved.

The committee decided to consider adding possible academic excellence metrics to the list supplied by James Heyman. Once we established a comprehensive list of possibilities we proceeded to eliminate some of them. We decided that the percentage of faculty who are full-time is relevant, as are the number of classes under 20 and the funds invested per student in library collections and electronic research resources/services. We decided not to keep student-faculty ratio, percentage of team-taught courses, external support for scholarship, average retention rates for first-year and sophomore students, breadth of academic offerings, depth of academic programs, and meaningful employment after graduation. We also discussed factors such as faculty diversity that we thought were better dealt with under categories other than academic excellence. There was also a discussion of the relevance of SAT/ACT scores, but we decided to keep the scores as an input factor.

RPC continued to organize the factors in terms of inputs, added value, and outputs. It was also noted that it is important to distinguish between factors such as the Macalester's criteria of academic preparedness that are peculiar to Macalester and factors such as SAT/ACT scores that can be used to compare Macalester with other colleges. We will keep both types of factors. Finally, it should be noted that an important consideration in deciding what to include was whether a potential metric could actually be measured.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Gunderson