

RPC Minutes  
February 3, 2006

Members Present

Faculty

Martin Gunderson  
James Heyman  
Andrew Latham  
Marjorie Merryman  
Vasant Sukhatme

Ex Officio

Diane Michelfelder  
David Wheaton

Students

Joe Reich  
Sandra Robson

Staff

Barbara Solberg  
Ron Joslin

The minutes of the December 16, 2005 meeting were approved.

The Treasurer, David Wheaton, gave a brief overview of the budget. He will also present the budget to the faculty at the February 8 faculty meeting. In addition, he will present the budget at other forums. He will also explain the factors that have gone into increasing net tuition when he meets with students.

The Provost, Diane Michelfelder, presented study away data from the Institute of International Education. The data compared different colleges on the basis of the percentage of study away students who studied away for a short-term period (8 weeks or less), an intermediate period (one semester), and a long-term period (one year). The data tended to show that less prestigious colleges had a higher percentage of their study away students, studying away for a shorter length of time. RPC considered whether this constituted a reason for not emphasizing short-term study away such as study away in January or summer. RPC also discussed the role of such data in evaluating Macalester's study away objectives. The discussion seemed to indicate that while Macalester should keep an eye on such data it should not be driven by the data.

The rest of the time was spent discussing suggested recommendations regarding study away. These recommendations were modified and then voted on in their modified form.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Gunderson