

RPC Minutes
March 24, 2006

Members Present

Faculty

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

Ex Officio

Dan Balik
Diane Michelfelder

Students

Joe Reich
Sandra Robson

The minutes of the March 10, 2006 meetings were approved.

The committee noted that only James Heyman and Andrew Latham among the faculty would continue beyond the end of this year. Both joined the committee last fall with three-year terms, although James Heyman will be taking a leave prior to the expiration of his three-year term. In order to move to overlapping three-year terms, the committee decided to have an election for two faculty members to have one-year terms and two to have three-year terms. We also decided that if a member takes a leave, that member will be replaced only for the time of the leave.

The committee also discussed the study away recommendations. A potential recommendation that Macalester increase the number of international students beyond what is necessary merely to remain in the top decile of our comparison group was dropped. While there was committee consensus on the remaining draft recommendations in general, the wording needed to be reworked.

The committee also resumed its discussion of academic excellence. The discussion had been on hold since early in the fall. Dan Balik will send us several sets of factors that might be used as indicators academic excellence. The goal is to find indicators by which we can determine whether Macalester is making progress in terms of academic excellence. It was noted that what counts as academic excellence at Macalester may have a character that sets it apart from research universities and even other liberal arts colleges. The deadline for the report, which will go to the Provost, is the last RPC meeting in May.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Gunderson