

**RPC Minutes**  
**September 14, 2005**

Members Present:

Faculty

Martin Gunderson  
James Heyman  
Andrew Latham  
Marjorie Merryman  
Vasant Sukhatme

Staff and Administration

Dan Balik  
Ron Joslin  
Brian Lindeman  
Diane Michelfelder  
Barb Solberg

After introductions, the committee discussed membership on Board of Trustee Committees and RPC subcommittees. We agreed on the following assignments for Trustee Committees: Finance Committee--Martin Gunderson and Vasant Sukhatme; Admissions—James Heyman; Advancement—Marjorie Merryman; Buildings and Grounds—Martin Gunderson for October and then Marjorie Merryman. Martin Gunderson will be the RPC representative to the Task Force on Budget (TFOB), and Marjorie Merryman will be the RPC representative to the Task Force on Facilities (TFOF).

We also discussed agenda items for the year. President Rosenberg is drafting a strategic plan, and RPC will be working with him to facilitate the plan. RPC will also work with David Wheaton to consider how the factors that determine net tuition revenue should be balanced. We will also work with David Wheaton to consider long range planning for the next 6 or 7 years. What will the budget priorities look like in 2012? In addition, RPC will work with Provost Michelfelder to consider factors that can be used to determine the extent to which the college is achieving its priority of academic excellence.

RPC then began its discussion of academic excellence. One member suggested that academic excellence needed to be considered in light of Macalester's Mission Statement and the college's Statement of Purpose and Belief. We agreed that we would read these statements and allow them to guide our discussion. We also agreed that it would not be good to engage in producing further surveys of students and faculty. In addition, we agreed that we would do a literature search on academic excellence and not become engaged in "reinventing the wheel." Possible indicators of excellence that were noted include faculty publications and artistic performances, the number of students involved in collaborative scholarship with faculty, and the number of students going on to graduate

and professional school. Various members also discussed the extent to which academic excellence is quantifiable.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martin Gunderson