

Committee on Educational Policies and Planning
Faculty Meeting
November 7, 2008

MOTION: CEPP moves that the faculty terminate Skidmore's current affiliation with the New York State Independent College Consortium for Study in India.

RATIONALE:

The faculty who represent Skidmore on the faculty board of the New York State Independent College Consortium for Study in India (NYSICCSI) and Cori Filson, Director of Off-Campus Study & Exchanges (OCSE), recommend that Skidmore terminate its current affiliation with NYSICCSI for Skidmore's India Program.

The recommendation to terminate comes after many months of discussion and deliberation. The recommendation grows out of concerns for the long-term viability of the Consortium and the program, as well as a desire to develop a Skidmore-specific program that allows the College more control over the academic program in India and that offers our students greater access to a study abroad program in India.

Throughout the years, the Consortium's India program has faced logistical and organizational challenges. Limited student enrollment opportunities have resulted in Skidmore students being closed out of the program on a regular basis. At other moments, the opposite has also been the case: a lack of student interest from other member schools has put the program in jeopardy of not sending any students to India several times.

Among other concerns, lack of institutional support from other Consortium members has led to repeated questions regarding who will serve as the faculty director. There is also an ongoing question regarding which member school will serve as the "agency" college and oversee the administration of the program. Unfortunately, the program finds itself in a continual state of crisis – in leadership and in enrollments.

At the same time, Skidmore student and faculty interest in India as an abroad destination for study and scholarship has steadily increased. We have seen more and more students apply to Skidmore's India Program, as well as an increase in students who apply to and enroll in non-Skidmore programs in India.

Finally, it is the College's intention to pilot a new Skidmore-specific program in Mysore, India.