



residence halls and apartments across campus with masking required while not in their private space. President Conner added that Skidmore has consistently been at the forefront of testing frequency and requirements since the onset of the pandemic in comparison to our peer institutions. Dean of Students and Vice President for Student Affairs Adrian Bautista asked that the Working Group clearly communicate any new testing options and ensure the availability of masks for everyone.

Discussion ensued regarding the updated testing proposal, including comments or questions on the specifics of reporting student rapid antigen test results, the isolation period for students who test positive before returning to campus from Spring Break, and the extension of required PCR testing past March 9. Assistant VP Cummings-Danson remarked that student athletes have sought rapid antigen tests from health services if they are not feeling well, and reporting of any positive rapid antigen test results has occurred in a timely manner. That being said, it was suggested that the College may want to create additional guidance for reporting positive results for students taking optional rapid antigen tests. Student Government Association President Geraldine Santoso indicated that students may have concerns with the new testing protocols given the numbers of students who will be traveling over the Break and the potential impact their return to campus may have on our community, especially for those who are immunocompromised. contractual testing agreement with the Broad Institute would be in jeopardy if the current testing schedule was changed. VP Ng replied that our agreement with the Broad Institute would remain intact and only the amount of contracted testing would change. Conversely, if we needed to return to more frequent testing in the future this could be accommodated as well. President Conner stated that achieving a balance between CDC recommendations, Saratoga County Department of Health guidelines, and what is best for well-being of our campus community is at the heart of establishing revised testing protocols.

Discussion continued regarding the anticipated announcement by the CDC of changes in masking guidance, in which it was expected that the criteria for requiring masking indoors will shift from measuring transmission rates to focusing on hospitalization and death rates. Concern was raised over loosening masking guidance at the same time as reducing PCR testing and the resulting potential impacts on the campus, specifically class attendance. The optional requiring of masks in the classroom versus not requiring masks in other indoor places on campus was discussed. Continuing to require indoor masking was weighed against the desire to move forward with returning to more normal campus life, including holding events. The importance of being led by science was stressed. VP for Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity Joshua Woodfork reminded the group to be mindful of potential cultural divides within our campus community. President sharing of perspectives and noted the level of care that has carried us through this challenging time.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.