



Date presented  
2/22/21

Type of action:  
Resolution

Final vote  
15-1-0

## **2021-0030:** *No Confidence in Shape of the College Recommendation*

Sponsored by: *Scotti, Chavez, Laferriere, Miller*

Co-Sponsored by: *Ithacappella, IC Voicestream, IC Second Stage, Students of Color Coalition, Model UN, IC Futures, IC Democrats, IC Votes, Kellie Swensen, Generation Action Planned Parenthood, Passion Project*

Recalling the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee's (APPIC) Shape of the College recommendation, which concludes that a reduction in staffing, among other recommendations, is necessary to sustain the college's financial health.

Recalling the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee's (APPIC) Shape of the College recommendation concludes that programmatic cuts are vital to sustain its financial health.

Understanding the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee's (APPIC) Shape of the College recommendation has been created due to the decrease in enrollment among other factors over the past decade.

Drawing Attention to the data presented that states that Ithaca College has experienced a 2.8% decrease in enrollment overall since 2008 - 2019, in comparison to a 7.3% increase in enrollment across the New York State college average.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z1VVTsvBznHbdIir-dpyoDcI4m1CD2wd/view><sup>1</sup>

Understanding that due to the data presented, a 2.8% overall decrease in enrollment does not justify a need for a major faculty adjustment.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1z1VVTsvBznHbdIir-dpyoDcI4m1CD2wd/view><sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The data presented was put together by former Ithaca College Mathematics professor, Greg Peterson, and is based off of the information that can be found here: <https://nscresearchcenter.org>

<sup>2</sup> Please see above footnote.

Understanding this reduction will result in the loss of significant programs, faculty, staff, and networks imperative to maintaining both the college's institutional sustainability.

Whereas the alumni, donor, and professional networks established by faculty are indispensable and fundamental to attaining the student body during their education and in their profession following Ithaca College and central to the college on an institutional level in fundraising, academic reputation, and recruitment.

Drawing Attention to the lack of student, faculty, and staff representatives included in the Shape of the College recommendation process, specifically on the Academic Program Prioritization Committee (APPIC), therefore preceding shared governance or active engagement between the Senior Leadership Team and the college's student body.

Whereas the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) is composed of the Deans of Ithaca College and members of the Ithaca College Senior Leadership Team.

<https://www.ithaca.edu/office-provost/academic-program-prioritization>

Emphasizing that shared governance is hereby defined by this bill, based off of the goals stated by Ithaca Forever, as active and regular engagement with students, staff, faculty and the greater Ithaca College community as this institution represents a legacy of deep dedication by all parties over generations and continued investment of these stakeholders.

<https://www.ithaca.edu/ithaca-forever/our-goals/collaboration-and-governance>

Drawing Attention to the fact that a significant number of students are dissatisfied with the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee's (APPIC) Shape of the College recommendation.

<https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2021/02/08/growing-resistance-against-cuts-ithaca>

Drawing Attention to the fact that a significant number of alumni are dissatisfied with the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee's (APPIC) Shape of the College recommendation.

<https://theithacan.org/opinion/alumnitestimonials/>

Drawing attention to the petition circulating that, as of the date of this bill's submission, has 510 signatures from community members and student body members who have therefore stated that they have no confidence in the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) Shape of the College recommendation.

<https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/sign-to-say-you-have-no-confidence-in-the-appic-2?fbclid=IwAR3L64L6gll87tM1akTrWnqECICjtwpZu1XsuTzuJvSPLqtweV0ntKyTQHI>

It is resolved that the Student Governance Council, and those signed onto the petition mentioned earlier in this bill have no confidence in the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee's (APPIC) Shape of the College recommendation.

It is also resolved that:

1. Ithaca College reconsiders the Academic Program Prioritization Implementation Committee (APPIC) recommendation as it is apparent that these actions are not supported by a significant portion of the campus community and should frequently include students, faculty, and staff in processes that determine the wellbeing of the college therefore ensuring active and productive engagement from all parts of the Ithaca College community.
  - a. Halt the process of implementing the APPIC Shape of the College recommendation and rescind all decisions made thus far.
  - b. Create a committee of 5 student representatives, 5 faculty, and 5 staff representatives selected by the campus community to direct a reevaluation of the college's financial status and to invoke creative solutions for sustainable transformation.
  - c. Establish regular meetings as a space for intentional engagement between different interest groups such as the Senior Leadership Team, Board of Trustees, Contingent Faculty Union, Student Governance Council, Faculty Council, Staff council, and the broader Ithaca College community.
  - d. Email APPIC weekly updates to ensure that the new process can be accessed to the entire campus community and so that direct communication methods can continue to be initiated.
  - e. Implement these recommendations with urgency and necessity before the *Shape of the College* document is set for approval by the Senior Leadership Team. ~ February 23rd at the latest.