

Dear Skidmore Student,

As 4/20 approaches, colleges all across the country are preparing for the possibility that their students may choose to participate in the public use of marijuana. 4/20 is often described as a counterculture event, originating in the 1970's, that celebrates cannabis and advocates for the decriminalization of the non-medical use of marijuana.

In the past, reports of a gathering on our campus—which appeared in the *Saratogian* newspaper—had far-reaching and negative consequences for the entire Skidmore community. In particular, this event and the media coverage created a negative image of who our students are. Even given our collective positive impact on the greater Saratoga Springs community, the actions of a small number of individuals were able to undermine our standing. The experience of past years is a good reminder that—even when we do not intend it—we represent the communities to which we belong. As student members of the Skidmore College, your actions will always represent the entire student body (indeed, the entire College community). We are fortunate that in great measure you have all been our best ambassadors.

This letter is a reminder that our expectations of you as students will not change on 4/20. Our institutional goal of informed, responsible citizenship and the Honor Code serve as the foundations for these expectations. Our expectation is simply this—that all students will abide by College regulations and the laws of New York State.

What you can expect from us:

- It is a crime (B misdemeanor) to smoke any amount of marijuana or to have any amount in public view in a “public place” which is defined, in part, as any place to which the public has access.
- Code of Conduct (see Student Handbook) violations will be referred to the Integrity Board. I am referring specifically to the failure to comply with the lawful directives of the College officials and/or the illegal purchase, use, possession or distribution of drugs or drug paraphernalia.
- Tents or other enclosures will not be allowed on campus.
- Campus Safety, as usual, will be patrolling campus and will enforce College policies. Activities that we believe constitute a crime as defined by the New York State Penal Code will be referred to the Saratoga Springs Police Department.

As our Student Handbook states, “While we understand that students will make their own choices, we also believe that students should experience the consequences of their choices.”

I’m proud to be a member of the Skidmore College community and I know that so many of you are as well. Let our actions on 4/20—and always—be a demonstration of our pride and respect for this wonderful place.

Sincerely,

W. Rochelle Calhoun

Dean of Student Affairs