In January, 2014 Dean DeNoble asked the ISSL Committee to spend the semester developing scenarios that explore how the College might better sustain year round activity, attract students, increase our impact, and make better use of resources.

Our role is preliminary, meant to begin constructive conversations that would involve the College as a whole rather than consider or even suggest specific proposals. It is in this spirit that we are having conversations with each of the departments about the Dean’s charge. Two issues have driven our meetings - one short term, and one longer term:

1. How will the College and Departments manage adjustments during construction of the Seaton Hall expansion?

2. How can we respond to (1) as an opportunity to position ourselves for a stronger future?

Construction of the Seaton Hall expansion may begin as early as summer 2015 and will result in the temporary loss of six studios, eleven faculty offices and significant classroom, shop, and support facilities. The College could absorb this temporary loss of space through a range of means, including: increasing summer course offerings; flexible scheduling of internship / study abroad / KCDC to even out the spring exodus of 4th year NB students; increasing offerings at KCDC; acquiring temporary space elsewhere on campus or in Manhattan; or something else.

More broadly the Dean has encouraged us to think of ways to build programs and increase our presence year round. One of the outcomes of a year round school would be more efficient use of building resources, but the Dean’s interest in (2) has much more to do with strengthening the College.

At this stage we need to tackle the following:
- Identify critical information and issues to consider as we discuss how to address (1) and (2).
- Assess our openness to considering options for (2).
- Determine a process for planning in earnest beginning next fall.

We’ll take notes of the department/program discussions and incorporate them into preliminary scenarios that we prepare for the Dean and the College as a whole.