

Committee on Admission and Financial Aid
Minutes – March 3, 2008

Present: Seth Allen, Sig Barber, Bob Grey, Nabila Mirza '11, Vida Praitis, Eliza Willis, and Arnold Woods, and Jon Edwards (Admission)

Absent: Jim Swartz, Jacob Sagrans '09, Colin Thompson '09

Application Numbers

Allen distributed a summary of the admission numbers thus far. First-year and transfer applications will top 4,000 for the first time this year.

The number of applications from U.S. students of color has dropped off significantly, possibly due to a 10% drop in the South. Some of this may be attributed to terminating our relationship with the QuestBridge program, which contributed to an increase in apps several years ago. The program changed their arrangement with colleges and most of the students we enrolled through the program came to us as inquiries on their own.

Other trends this year include a higher number of students of color enrolled through Early Decision and more international applications.

Two faculty phonathons are scheduled for March 3 and March 6. Students included in this initiative are among the earliest completed applications and the most talented in our applicant pool.

International Admission

Jon Edwards attended the meeting and shared information about international admission.

Regarding Asian applicants:

- 60% of last year's applicant pool was represented by students from East and South Asia. This year's applicant pool is similar.
- 7% of the applicants are from Africa.
- Yield of international students over the past 5 years has averaged 22.24%; in 2007, the yield was 42%
- Improvement in the Chinese economy now allows us to spend less on aid for Chinese students
- 396 applications from Chinese students were received this year.
- Need-sensitive policy did impact yield last year. There is still some confusion among students regarding need-blind admission and the need-sensitive aid policy.

United World College:

- Will look at performance of UWC enrollees at Grinnell College
- Arrangement with Davis Foundation awards \$20,000 to each UWC enrollee if we enroll 5 or more.

Miscellaneous Discussion:

- What is the ideal percentage of international students in any incoming class? 12-13, 13-14%
- Selling the liberal arts education to international populations to avoid "flooding" any one major/division (i.e., economics). Perhaps work with GRASP (Grinnell Regional Admission Support Program) outside the US: "why the liberal arts education was important to my success?"
- Guidance for admission regarding international admission:
 - Improve international diversity
 - Investigate falsified documents

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by C. Newport