

**Committee on Admission and Financial Aid
Minutes –April 7, 2008**

Present: Seth Allen, Vida Praitis, Jim Swartz , Eliza Willis, Arnold Woods, Nancy Maly (Admission), and Gerry Adams (Registrar)

Absent: Sig Barber, Bob Grey, Jacob Sagrans '09, Colin Thompson '09, and Nabila Mirza '11

Admission Update

Allen reported the following regarding first-year applications:

- 3,886 first-year applications were received this year, an increase of about 100 from 2007
- 35% of applicants were admitted this year compared to 40% last year
- 345 U.S. students of color were admitted compared to 356 last year
- The number of international students admitted this year was 120 compared to 148 in 2007
- The number of students admitted by regional, 2008 vs 2007:
 - 152 vs 144 in the Mid-Atlantic
 - 143 vs 176 in the South
 - 602 vs 700 in the Midwest (120 vs 111 in Iowa)
 - 259 vs 303 in the West
 - New England numbers are the same as last year
- SAT scores are down slightly in the admitted pool
- ACT composite score is the same as last year, 30.8
- With regard to the admission rating scale, the numbers this year compared to last year:

34-36	same as 2007
32-33	slightly higher this year
30-31	same
28-29	fewer than 07
25-27	fewer than 07
Below 24	more than 07

In response to Gray's question about the role football recruiting played this year, Allen responded that 174 athletes compared to 204 last year were admitted. A good percentage of qualified athletes heavily recruited by the coaching staff were admitted. A brief discussion followed Willis' concern that more time is spent with sports than academics, and academics then suffer, particularly for the more academically challenged student. Maly responded that the collaborative effort and commitment to academics on the part of the coaching staff has been impressive

Admission Application Deadlines

The Office of Admission is proposing earlier application deadlines for both Early Decision and Regular Decision next year:

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| Early Decision I | move from November 20 to November 15 |
| Early Decision II | Remains January 2 |
| Regular Decision | move from January 20 to January 2 |

The deadline for both EDII and Regular Decision will now be the same date, a policy which is not uncommon among other institutions. Grinnell's deadlines are currently later than most of its peers (Regular Decision deadlines for Macalester, Carleton and Oberlin are all on Jan. 15). Earlier deadlines will enable staff to begin reading files sooner. This will also allow early notification ("wink") to more students rated in the top two tiers of the rating scale. Committee members were in agreement to proceed with new deadlines.

French Baccalaureat and German Arbitur Policies

Summaries of the two programs were distributed to members prior to the meeting for review. Key points of discussion:

- Awarding credit makes Grinnell look more welcoming to international students and will likely increase the number of applications from Western Europe.

- Arbtur and French Bac are national diploma degrees; there are not likely to be others.
- Both programs are in line with the A-level, AP and IB programs

The Committee on Academic Standing (CAS) will need to look at the curricula with the departments and determine equivalencies, subject areas, course credit, etc. Willis will confer with Barber and Grey but the consensus from the Committee was to proceed, with Adams presenting to CAS for consideration.

American Sign Language

Maly reported an increase in the number applicants listing ASL as a foreign language. When reading an application, staff must decide if the student is deficient in foreign language if nothing other than ASL is listed. This item will be tabled for the May 5 meeting.

Meeting adjourned.
Submitted by C. Newport