

**Committee on Admission and Financial Aid  
Minutes - December 3, 2007**

Present: Seth Allen, Sig Barber, Bob Grey, Nabila Mirza '11, Vida Praitis, Jacob Sagrans '09, Colin Thompson '09, Eliza Willis, and Arnold Woods  
Absent: Tom Crady, Jim Swartz

**Application Numbers**

The meeting started off with a review of date to date admission applications which showed overall applications for fall 2008 to be even with fall 2007. Early Decision 1 applications were slightly ahead of this time last year.

Allen noted that the admission staff was well into review of Early Decision 1 applications and that selection teams were preparing to head to Los Angeles, CA and Washington, DC to select next fall's Posse Scholars in the next two weeks.

**Publications**

Allen noted that going forward major changes or additions to flagship admission publications would be brought to the Committee for discussion and that the chair of the faculty, currently Eliza Willis, would be asked to review these publications as well.

The next major update is to the viewbook in January. This update is coming earlier in the academic year because the Admission Office wants to mail the viewbook earlier – in late May/early June instead of July - to interest students in Grinnell well in advance of their senior year since competitive students will often firm up their college lists before the start of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Admission Selection and Review**

In advance of the meeting Allen had asked committee members to review a July 6, 2006 article in Inside Higher Ed <http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2006/07/06/tufts> that reported on changes Tufts University had made to their admission application and subsequent admission review. He asked the Committee to brainstorm on alternate ways to identify and admit the “best” students to Grinnell beyond the traditional admission measures of coursework, grades, testing, and extracurricular involvement. Expressed qualities that came from the discussion were:

- Social consciousness
- Independence
- Self-reliance

Ideas for how to identify these qualities included:

- Peer recommendations
- Other recommendations from art directors, coaches, etc.
- A required interview, on or off campus

The next meeting's agenda will focus on changes in financial aid at Grinnell, including a discussion of the college's new initiatives to reduce student debt.

Meet adjourned at 1:02 pm.