Committee on Admission and Financial Aid
Minutes – February 2, 2009

Present: Seth Allen, Sig Barber, Gayatri Jayal ’11, Nancy Maly, Jack Mutti, Vida Praitis, Mark Schneider, Aki Shibuya ’11, Paula Smith, and Arnold Woods.
Absent: Charity Porotesano

Update on Admission – Nancy Maly
- Early Decision I has been completed and deposits received
- Early Decision II has been completed and we are waiting for deposits
- Much larger Early Decision pool this year made it a more selective process this year
- Total first year applications are running similar to last year. Anticipate this will be Grinnell’s second largest applicant pool ever.
- More students of color applied this year than last year’s final total
- Began importing applications from Common Application directly into the admission system on January 7, 2009
- Target class size is smaller this year (390-395 first-year students)
- As of now, anticipating a 30% acceptance rate, which would make this the most selective year on record.

Update on Financial Aid – Arnold Woods
- About on target with budget projections
- Anticipate appeals
- ED I and II – same number of no need apps as last year and a comparable amount of aid (per student) as last year
- Generally, there are more students asking for assistance and the amounts they are requesting are only slightly more than in the past
- There doesn’t appear to be much difference between Early Decision and Regular Decision with regard to need.
- Some families are asking for early estimates this year before having completed the application

Director of Admission Search
- Copy of the ad was circulated to committee members
- Nancy Maly has served as interim director for the past two years
- Anticipated timeline:
  - February - March - Advertise
    - Identify 8-10 for phone interviews
    - Identify 3 for on-campus interviews
  - April – schedule interviews
  - May – hire
  - Mid-summer – start
- Committee on Admission and Financial Aid involvement:
  - Interview candidates brought to campus
  - Send short list to committee for review
  - Post full list or short list on PioneerWeb for review by committee members
  - Keep time available during April for interviews
Role of Admission Board

- Follow-up from the December discussion
- Board has only two faculty members this year; attempting to get a third member
- Board files are being posted on PioneerWeb this year – seems to be working well
- Board members were polled and prefer to review 100 files this year rather than a smaller number
  - Viewed as a serious commitment
  - 100 files seems like an optimal number to review
- How are the 100 files identified?
  - Files where the two readers disagree on the decision (first year that readers have recommended a decision on the file), but this may not yield enough files
  - Within a particular admission rating range
  - At request of reader
  - One reader is diametrically opposed to other decisions
- Discussion of 4 options presented in follow-up document:
  - First two options are modification of current process
  - Options 3 and 4 deviate more significantly from current charge of the board
- Allen will refine suggestions and present two pilot ideas:
  - One will be more similar to the current system
  - Second will be more pointed toward retention
- Other suggestions related to collection of data:
  - Look at admission rating of students who don’t do well at Grinnell (Committee on Academic Standing actions)
  - Look at students who 1) fail to graduate, 2) have trouble along the way and identify any telling characteristics (Board or staff generated)
- Schedule joint meeting of this committee and the admission board in late spring

Submitted: C. Newport
Committee on Admission and Financial Aid  
February 2, 2009

### KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As of 2/01/09*</th>
<th>As of 02/01/08</th>
<th>As of 03/01/08</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Applications</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ED</td>
<td>304 (+46%)</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RG</td>
<td>3439 (+29%)</td>
<td>2662</td>
<td>3674</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>3743 (+30.4%)</strong></td>
<td><strong>2870</strong></td>
<td><strong>3876</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students of Color</td>
<td>654 (+27%)</td>
<td>516</td>
<td>624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>1142 (+90%)</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>1282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enrolls</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students of Color</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* data imported electronically this year into new admission system

### OTHER INITIATIVES

- Mailing regular decision letters March 20-21
- Accepted Student Open Houses planned April 10, 17, 24