

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

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KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

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

* 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