

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

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

Absent: Nancy Maly

Update on Admission and Aid

- Allen distributed a document (attached) comparing 2008 and 2009 data. This year's first-year target will be smaller than last year's due, in part, to last year's larger than expected class.
- Applications ended up at a 2% decline from last year, with peer institutions reporting similar results (1-6%)
- Admission board met 5 times and has two more meetings planned
 - Reviewing files where the 1st and 2nd readers disagree on their decisions (staff previously did not indicate a decision on the file)
- Allen plans to invite the board to attend the committee meeting in May
- Woods reported that Financial Aid has just started working on awards for new students (mostly international) and continues to work on awards for returning students.

Planning for next year's acceptance rate, yield, and summer melt

- Yield rate has historically been 26-28%; in 2008, the yield jumped to 34%
- Summer melt (deposited students who decide not to enroll or defer their admission) was 8-10% historically and in 2008 dropped to 5%.
- Above two factors contributed to the larger than anticipated class
- Allen distributed a spreadsheet comparing 08 and 09:
 - Assuming yield and summer melt remain the same as 2008, the number of regular decision admits for 2009 is 925
 - In order to protect against over-enrollment, that number will likely be lower
- Might Grinnell's aid policy and financial stability increase yield this year, given the economy?
- Number of applicants initially slated for admission in 2008 was reduced by approximately 150.
- Use, size and quality of wait list was discussed:
 - It is difficult to go to the wait list before May 1 because the largest number of deposits are received on or about May 1. Yet, going after May 1st reduces the likelihood of an admitted wait list student enrolling as students may have already made up their minds to go elsewhere.
 - Will anticipate using the wait list this year so the target number of admits will be lower

Discussion of college's "Admission Policy"

- Prior to the April meeting, Allen will provide committee members with a) the document(s) used by admission staff to read and evaluate files and b) the script for what we look for in prospective students when talking to student/parent audiences
- The Committee will look into creating a statement that more specifically defines what we mean when we say "Admission Policy"

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by C. Newport

A&FA Committee
March 2, 2009

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	As of 03/02/09	As of 03/01/08
<u>Applications</u>		
ED	304 (+50%)	202
RG	3493 (-5%)	3674
TOTAL	3797 (-2%)	3876
Students of Color	693 (+11%)	624
International	1166 (-9)	1282
<u>Enrolls</u>		
Total	139	128
Students of Color	33	35
International	20	12

OTHER INITIATIVES

- Mailing regular decision letters March 23-25
- Accepted Student Open Houses planned April 10, 17, 24

The Admission and Student Financial Aid Committee

This committee shall assist the President of the College and the faculty in the determination of admission policy and of scholarship, student loan, and student employment policy. The Dean of the College or his or her representative shall serve as chair.

1. Membership

The Dean of the College (chair); Chair of the Faculty; three elected faculty members, one from each division, elected for staggered three year terms; three students selected by the Student Government Association; the Director of Admission (secretary); the Director of Student Financial Aid; and the Dean of Admission and Financial Aid.

2. Duties with Respect to Admission

The Committee shall

make policy recommendations (annually and at other times deemed desirable) to the President of the College and to the faculty on their determinations of the admission policy of the College.

receive regular reports from the Director of Admission on the annual admission process, such reports including data relevant to the basic guidelines set by the admission policy.

receive from the Admission Board reports on the number of special cases considered by the Board and the disposition of these cases; when necessary, to meet with the Admission Board for discussion of questions related to the Board's activity.

3. Duties with Respect to Student Aid

The Committee shall

make policy recommendations to the President of the College and to the faculty on the determination of the student aid (scholarship, loan, and student employment) policy of the College.

receive regular reports from the Director of Student Financial Aid on the annual process of student aid.

The Admission Board

1. Membership

The Dean of Admission and Financial Aid and three faculty members appointed by the President. The faculty members will be appointed, one from each division, to staggered three-year terms.

2. Duties

This board shall decide all special cases in the area of student admission (i.e., all cases within its discretion as provided by the admission policy). The Admission Board at its discretion may review all applications for admission.

FROM THE ONLINE CATALOG

Admission

Grinnell College is dedicated to educating people whose achievements show a high level of intellectual capacity, initiative, and maturity. The student who will benefit most from a Grinnell education also possesses a serious interest in learning and the emotional and social maturity needed for independent living and study.

In addition to an excellent academic record, the admission policy favors applicants who have a record of participation in extracurricular activities, including leadership roles, honors, or awards earned.

The academic year is divided into two semesters, fall beginning in late August and spring in late January. First-year or international students may apply only for fall-semester admission. Transfer applicants may choose either fall- or spring-semester entry. Please see the admission timetable for application deadlines and notification dates.

Requirements for Regular Admission

1. Scholastic record and class standing that show an ability to do high-level college work. The Admission Board feels that good, consistent performance in a college-preparatory program best indicates a student's preparation for college.
2. Graduation from an accredited secondary school with recommended credit as follows: four years of English, four years of mathematics with minimum completion of pre-calculus or the equivalent, three-four years of laboratory science, three-four years of a foreign language, and three-four years of social studies or history. Home-school students should submit their home-school curriculum, by year, including subject areas studied, texts used, and time spent on each discipline.
3. Recommendation of the secondary-school counselor.
4. Recommendations from two academic instructors.
5. Satisfactory results on the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT I) or the American College Test (ACT). For some students the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) may also be required. Grinnell strongly recommends that home-school students sit for the SAT II, particularly in literature, mathematics, and a third subject area of their own choosing.