Committee on Admission and Financial Aid
Minutes – May 4, 2009

Present: Seth Allen, Sig Barber, Gayatri Jayal ’11, Nancy Maly, Jack Mutti, Vida Praitis, Mark Schneider, Aki Shibuya ’11, Paula Smith, Arnold Woods and members of the 2009 Admission Board Leslie Lyons and Anatoly Vyshevsky
Absent: Charity Porotesano ’12, Brigittine French (admission board)

Update on Admission – Nancy Maly
1. Currently at 284 net deposits or 70% of the target (385)
2. Target number of gross deposits is 400
3. Deliberately admitted a smaller class to avoid over-enrolling this year
4. The percentage of students who were admitted and have withdrawn is about the same as last year
5. Diversity – 23% US students of color

Update on Financial Aid – Arnold Woods
1. Awarded $6.2 million and discount
2. Discount rate is currently 59% but will change over the next few weeks
3. $193,000 in loan reduction for 75 students
4. 64 families met with Financial Aid during the admitted student receptions; will track the matriculation of those students
5. Other institutions are using merit aid “big time”

Discussion with Admission Board
1. Board reviewed files that had 2 divergent decisions from admission readers.
2. Looked at those that were between “admit” and “waitlist”, (not those between “waitlist” and “deny”)
3. Leslie – felt she didn’t look at the lower end of applicants
4. Leslie – looked at writings, essays and asked “Would we want this student as an advisee?”
5. Is there a way to inject faculty perspective into the reading method for admission staff?
6. Does current policy disadvantage those who do less well from high quality high schools?
   a. Some discussion of grade inflation, etc.
8. As Grinnell becomes more selective will we see fewer applications?
9. Are we attracting top Iowa students?
10. Students have to bring something really interesting to get admitted
11. When selecting only 25% of applications, who are we not able to admit
12. When does choice of curriculum come in?
   a. Rating reflects the quality of high school and rigor of curriculum and performance
13. Recommendations:
   a. Publications must match what we look for, i.e., “successful applications will have....” But be carefully phrased
   b. Can’t lose flexibility
   c. Continue discussion during first semester
   d. Other thoughts/reflections should be forwarded to Seth
   e. To what extent can policy be changed without revision to the faculty handbook?
   f. What is the admission policy?