

August 15, 2002

TO: Grinnell College Faculty Members

FROM: Jim Swartz, Chair, Faculty-Student Committee on Admission and Financial Aid
Jim Sumner, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

RE: 2001-2002 Committee Report and Preliminary Enrollment Data

The members of the Committee in 2001-2002 were Professors William Patch, Roger Vetter, Charles Cunningham and Robert Gray, and students Tony Pham, Michael Chon and Danijela Gazibara. The professors and students on the Committee met twice a month throughout the academic year with Jim Sumner (Dean of Admission and Financial Aid), Arnold Woods (Director of Student Financial Aid), Tom Crady (Vice President for Student Services), and other administrative staff as needed. Jim Sumner posted summaries of each meeting on my website for your information and evaluation. The Committee was very active again this past year and I thank both the Committee and the Faculty Board on Admission (Professors Patch, Joseph Cummins and Ann Ellis, and Jim Sumner) for their thoughtful dedication to the full schedule of activities of these two important faculty groups.

The key issues addressed by the Committee were:

- 1) Monitored the annual admission and new student enrollment picture throughout the academic year,
- 2) Monitored the work of the Faculty Board on Admission, via Professor Patch (a member of both groups),
- 3) Approved a new, brief application for admission process for local high school students seeking to enroll in classes at the College at no cost to the students,
- 4) Reviewed the 2001 Comprehensive Report on Admission circulated to the faculty in December, deciding to distribute it electronically in 2002 (with hard copy editions available to those who want them),
- 5) Explored and rejected the possibility of making optional the College's requirement that all applicants for transfer admission submit either Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) or American College Test (ACT) scores,
- 6) Continued to explore the possibility of a need-sensitive admission policy for international applicants. This issue will be the first agenda item for the Committee in the 2002-2003 school year.
- 7) Conducted (thanks in large measure to Scott Baumler and Carol Trosset in the Office of Institutional Research) and discussed considerable research on applicants for admission and the characteristics that best indicate their chances of academic success and graduation. The consensus ultimately was that the present (faculty-developed) applicant rating scale is the best overall indicator of success at the College, and that the SAT Mathematics score may be the single best indicator. Therefore, the Committee adopted the following resolution:

The Committee recommends that the Office of Admission use the following guideline when considering the applications for admission of students who are not clearly admissible or deniable: Because the SAT Mathematics score may be the single greatest predictor of success at Grinnell College, no marginal applicant should be admitted who

earns an SAT Mathematics score of less than 500 (fiftieth percentile) and/or the corresponding score on the ACT.

- 8) Approved, following historical research by Jim Sumner, a return to the College's traditional procedures for reviewing applicants of color. These procedures require that marginal applicants of color be reviewed by the Faculty Board on Admission, with the Associate Dean of Admission and Coordinator of Multicultural Admission joining board members for these reviews.
- 9) Approved creation of an Early Decision (ED) II program in an effort to enroll additional ED students, a common practice among peer institutions and other very selective colleges,
- 10) Monitored proposed changes in Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) regulations as they might impact the College's enrollment of new and returning international students, and

Unresolved agenda items from the 2001-2002 year ensure a quick start for the Committee next month.

We thank you, the Grinnell College faculty, for your support of our admission efforts this past year. You met with hundreds of prospective students and their families individually, participated in many admission events on and off campus, reached admission decisions on 200 applicants for admission, interviewed scholarship applicants, telephoned and emailed hundreds of admitted students, delivered keynote addresses at six campus admission events, and welcomed a record number of visitors this month to Iowa Private College Week. These efforts contributed significantly to the quality and quantity of the entering class.

Attached is a report from the Office of Admission describing the entering class as of August 15, 2002.

Enrollment Profile as of August 15, 2002

	FALL 1998	FALL 1999	FALL 2000	FALL 2001	FALL 2002
PROJECTED ON-CAMPUS					
FALL ENROLLMENT	1321	1305	1314	1303	1327
Off-Campus Study, Fall	98	117	122	122	120
Total Fall Enrollment	1419	1422	1436	1425	1447
Personal/Medical Leaves, Fall	52	37	38	27	25
Total Off Campus, Fall	150	154	160	149	145
Off-Campus Study, Spring	106	100	81	68	109
ENTERING NEW STUDENTS					
Target Class Size	365	360	380	415	420
Entering Class Size	384	362	395	406	408
Male	169	175	166	193	181
Female	215	187	229	213	227
% Male	44%	48%	42%	48%	44%
% Female	56%	52%	58%	52%	56%
First-year Only	355	329	367	365	376
Transfer	24	25	23	39	27
One-year Exchange	3	5	3	2	5
WAIT LIST:					
Number on wait list	249	144	222	152	146
Number admitted	14	45	64	68	28
Number enrolled	4	11	31	29	11
Files read by Faculty Board	209	183	178	151	200
ETHNIC COMPOSITION:					
African-American	11	13	18	20	7
Asian American	19	19	15	17	19
Latino/a	14	22	15	13	10
Native American	0	2	2	4	2
% Class, U.S. Students of Color	11%	15%	12%	13%	9%
International	30	39	39	55	50
% Class, International	8%	11%	10%	14%	12%

Application Statistics

The following statistics provide comparative data for the fall entering classes, 1998-2002, including the breakdown of Part I and actionable applications.

“Total Apps” include all applications, regardless of whether or not the application was completed. “Actionable Apps” include only *completed* applications. Populations representing the difference include a) applicants who submitted *only* the Part I, b) applicants who withdrew their application and c) those who failed to submit all required documents.

	Total Apps	Part I Only	Actionable Apps	Number Admitted	% of Total	% of Actionable	Number Enrolled	% Yield
1998	2832	590	2017	1231	43.5%	61.0%	384	31.2%
1999	2476	423	1857	1239	50.0%	66.7%	362	29.2%
2000	2888	564	2024	1305	45.2%	64.5%	395	30.3%
2001	2960	574	2112	1361	46.0%	64.4%	406	29.8%
2002	3042	493	2188	1404	46.2%	64.2%	408	29.1%

Entering Class Quality

The following charts illustrate quality of the entering class using secondary school rank (statistics are provided by both quintile and decile and include comparative data from previous years) and SAT/ACT scores.

Entering Class Quality using Secondary School Rank -- by Quintile Fall Semesters 1998-2002

	1998	%	1999	%	2000	%	2001	%	2002	%
I	270	86%	231	80%	255	85.9%	245	83.9%	221	81.3%
II	39	12%	54	19%	38	12.8%	42	14.4%	43	15.8%
III	4	1%	4	1%	3	1.0%	3	1.0%	4	1.5%
IV	1	0.3%	0	0%	1	0.3%	2	0.7%	1	0.4%
V	1	0.3%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0.0%	3	1.1%

Entering Class Quality using Secondary School Rank – by Decile Fall Semesters 1998-2002

	1st	%	2nd	%	3rd	%	4th	%	5th	%	6th	%
1998	205	65.1%	65	20.6%	28	8.9%	11	3.5%	4	1.3%	0	0.0%
1999	151	52.2%	80	27.7%	37	12.8%	17	5.9%	4	1.4%	0	0.0%
2000	183	61.6%	72	24.2%	25	8.4%	13	4.4%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%
2001	176	60.3%	69	23.6%	30	10.3%	12	4.1%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%
2002	155	57.0%	66	24.3%	30	11.0%	13	4.8%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%

Mean Scholastic Aptitude Test and American College Test Scores, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
SAT Verbal	672	668	673	667	675
SAT Math	663	658	660	665	661
ACT Composite	29.4	29	29.3	29.1	29.2

Median Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) Scores, 1998-2002

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
SAT-Verbal	690	670	680	680	690
SAT-Math	670	660	660	670	660
ACT Composite	30	29	29	30	29

Financial Aid

Applicants, Fall 1998-2002

	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Applicants for Admission	2,832	2,476	2,888	2,960	3,042
Applicants for Financial Aid	1,723	1,639	1,650	1,715	1,698
Applicants Tendered Admission	1,231	1,239	1,304	1,361	1,404
Financial Aid Awards Offered	1,006	1,041	1,126	1,183	1,184
Enrolled Aid Applicants	344	331	351	359	313

Average Aid Awards to Enrolled New Students, Fall 1998-2002

	GRANT		LOAN		EMPLOYMENT	
	No. Students	Average	No. Students	Average	No. Students	Average
1998-99	344	\$10,290	158	\$3,203	159	\$1,136
1999-00	328	\$11,623	136	\$3,656	218	\$1,397
2000-01	361	\$11,290	138	\$3,609	198	\$1,629
2001-02	373	\$12,786	177	\$2,017	263	\$1,838
2002-03	350	\$12,732	184	\$4,018	195	\$1,756