

August 24, 2004

Memorandum to: Members of the College Faculty
From: Jim Swartz, Chair, Student-Faculty Committee
On Admission and Financial Aid
Subject: 2003-2004 Committee Report and Preliminary Enrollment Data

The members of the Committee in 2003-2004 were faculty representatives Charles Cunningham, David Harrison, Jean Ketter, and Mark Montgomery, and students Danijela Gazibara, Rohan Mandelia, and Alfredo Rivera. The faculty members and students met regularly 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 staff as needed (the Committee received especially good staff support in 2003-2004 from Connie Newport and Val McKee).

Jim Sumner posted summaries of each meeting on my website for your evaluation and information. The Committee was active again this past year and I am thankful to both the Committee and the Faculty Board on Admission (Professors Ann Ellis, Pablo Silva, and Michael Cavanagh and Jim Sumner) for their dedication to the full schedule of activities of these two important campus groups.

The key topics addressed by the Committee were:

1. Took up an ongoing piece of business (from the 2002-03 academic year), deciding to maintain the College's existing policies regarding the admission of College employees to degree-seeking status. The Committee had previously collected, circulated, and discussed the handful of relevant College policies surrounding this topic.
2. Received a report from Professor Howard Burkle, based on his perspective as mentor to the College's 12 new (and first as Posse I) Posse Foundation students. Dr. Burkle described his training, involvement and role as Posse I Mentor, beginning with his appointment in the spring of 2003.
3. Received a report from Jim Sumner concerning the academic performance at the College of permanent resident visa holders. Of the 17 such students enrolled for the fall 2003 semester, six were new. Of the 11 returning students, four earned GPAs above 3.00, one is in official academic difficulty, and the mean GPA for the group is 3.03.
4. Received a report from Jim Sumner concerning College students whose secondary school GPA slipped in their last semester and who, therefore, received a letter of warning from Dean Sumner. Of the 37 such students enrolled for the fall 2003 semester, 11 students earned below a 3.00 GPA. As a group, they earned a first semester mean GPA of 2.917, an overall mean GPA of 3.032, and one was dismissed from of the College.
5. Considered the request of a student who was admitted for the fall of 2003, was then forced at the last minute to not enroll for medical reasons, was granted a one-year deferral, and then requested to enroll in January of 2004 as a first-year student. The Committee ultimately agreed to stick to the College's policy of not enrolling new first-year students in January, but allowed the student to take two college classes during the 2003-04 academic year and still enroll as a first-year student in the fall of 2004.
6. Explored the value and need for a new or formalized exchange program with a historically African-American college or university. I agreed to raise the issue with the Board on Off-Campus Study.
7. Received and accepted a recommendation from Professor Marci Sortor (on behalf of the College writing advisory committee) that the College require the new SAT writing section (to be first administered in March 2005 for the class that will enter in August of 2006) for all applicants for admission, that the writing score not be used in the decision-making process, and that it be used for research on the writing skills of the student body.
8. Discussed various ways in which top NCAA Division III liberal arts colleges recruit and advantage superior athletes in the admission process, ultimately deciding:
 - a. To leave the admission process as is, and
 - b. To encourage the admission and athletic departments to consider more and better ways to recruit the best student-athletes.

9. Initiated a discussion of the Tuition Exchange and Tuition Remission programs, a topic of interest to the Committee because the programs require an expenditure of more than \$1,000,000 annually from the financial aid budget. I agreed to take up this issue with the ACM Presidents Group as a new member of the group.
10. Received a report from Jim Sumner on the Des Moines Register's Academic All-State Team regarding those who apply, are admitted and enroll at the College as well as elsewhere.
11. Received regular reports from Jim Sumner concerning the pool of prospective students, applicants, admits and enrollees, especially regarding academic quality, gender balance, ethnic/geographic/socio-economic diversity, net tuition revenue and total enrollment.

The Committee and I are thankful to you, the Grinnell College faculty, for your support, oversight, and guidance of our admission efforts this past year. You met with hundreds of prospective students and their families individually, participated in many on and off-campus admission events, reached admission decisions on many applicants, interviewed scholarship applicants, telephoned and e-mailed hundreds of admitted students, delivered keynote addresses at several campus admission open houses and welcomed a record number of visitors this month during Iowa Private College Week. These efforts contributed significantly to the quality, quantity, and diversity of the entering class.

Attached is a report from the Office of Admission describing the entering class as of August 16, 2004.

Enrollment Profile as of August 16, 2004

	FALL 2000	FALL 2001	FALL 2002	FALL 2003	FALL 2004
PROJECTED ON-CAMPUS					
FALL ENROLLMENT	1314	1303	1327	1410	1422
Off-Campus Study, Fall	122	122	120	85	110
Total Fall Enrollment	1436	1425	1447	1495	1532
Personal/Medical Leaves, Fall	38	27	25	33	32
Total Off Campus, Fall	160	149	145	118	142
Off-Campus Study, Spring	81	68	109	96	99
ENTERING NEW STUDENTS					
Target Class Size	380	415	420	410	410
Entering Class Size	395	406	408	423	458
Male	166	193	181	195	206
Female	229	213	227	228	252
% Male	42%	48%	44%	46%	45%
% Female	58%	52%	56%	54%	55%
First-year Only	367	365	376	410	439
Transfer	23	39	27	9	17
One-year Exchange	3	2	5	4	2
WAIT LIST:					
Number on wait list	222	152	146	244	513
Number admitted	64	68	28	1	29
Number enrolled	31	29	11	1	22
Files read by Faculty Board					
	178	151	200	87	99
ETHNIC COMPOSITION:					
African-American	18	20	6	20	18
Asian American	15	17	19	26	25
Latino/a	15	13	10	21	18
Native American	2	4	2	6	1
% Class, U.S. Students of Color	12%	13%	9%	17%	14%
International	39	55	50	46	61
% Class, International	10%	14%	12%	11%	13%

Application Statistics

The following statistics provide comparative data for the fall entering classes, 2000-2004, 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
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%
2003	3057	346	2409	1480	48.4%	61.4%	423	28.6%
2004	3732	29	3090	1542	41.3%	49.9%	458	29.7%

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 2000-2004

	2000	%	2001	%	2002	%	2003	%	2004	%
I	255	85.9%	245	83.9%	221	81.3%	242	78.6%	285	88.0%
II	38	12.8%	42	14.4%	43	15.8%	49	15.9%	37	11.4%
III	3	1.0%	3	1.0%	4	1.5%	7	2.3%	2	0.6%
IV	1	0.3%	2	0.7%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
V	0	0%	0	0.0%	3	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Entering Class Quality using Secondary School Rank – by Decile Fall Semesters 2000-2004

	2000	%	2001	%	2002	%	2003	%	2004	%
I	183	61.6%	176	60.3%	155	57.0%	194	63.0%	219	67.6%
II	72	24.2%	69	23.6%	66	24.3%	58	18.8%	66	20.4%
III	25	8.4%	30	10.3%	30	11.0%	40	13.0%	28	8.6%
IV	13	4.4%	12	4.1%	13	4.8%	9	2.9%	9	2.8%
V	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	6	2.0%	1	0.3%
VI	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%	1	0.3%

Mean Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) Scores, 2000-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SAT Verbal	673	667	675	671	683
SAT Math	660	665	661	665	682
ACT Composite	29.3	29.1	29.2	29.6	30

Median Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) Scores, 2000-2004

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
SAT-Verbal	680	680	690	680	690
SAT-Math	660	670	660	680	690
ACT Composite	29	30	29	30	30

Financial Aid

Applicants, Fall 2000-2004

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Applicants for Admission	2,888	2,960	3,042	3,057	3,732
Applicants for Financial Aid	1,650	1,715	1,698	1,875	2,208
Applicants Tendered Admission	1,304	1,361	1,404	1,480	1,542
Financial Aid Awards Offered	1,126	1,183	1,184	1,276	1,418
Enrolled Aid Applicants	351	359	313	367	390

Average Aid Awards to Enrolled New Students, Fall 2000-2004

	GRANT		LOAN		EMPLOYMENT	
	No. Students	Average	No. Students	Average	No. Students	Average
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
2003-04	380	\$14,999	181	\$ 4,386	192	\$ 1,694
2004-05	417	\$15,415	157	\$ 4,507	200	\$ 1,753