

August 23, 2005

Memorandum to: Members of the College Faculty
From: Jim Swartz, Chair, Student-Faculty Committee on
Admission and Financial Aid
Subject: 2004-05 Committee Report and Preliminary Enrollment Data

The members of the Committee in 2004-05 were faculty members Paul Tjossem, David Harrison, Jean Ketter, and Wayne Moyer, and students Rohan Mandelia, Emerson Williams-Molett 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 2004-05 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 Michael Cavanagh, Mark Levandoski, Pablo Silva, plus Jim Sumner) for their dedication to the full schedule of activities of these two important campus groups.

The key topics addressed by the Committee in 2004-05 were:

1. Posse Foundation and Grinnell College – the Committee received two reports during the year regarding the College's partnership with the Foundation in both Los Angeles and the District of Columbia. The most extensive of these reports was from Professor Charlie Duke and Vice President Frank Thomas who served as mentors to the twenty-two enrolled Posse students. Several recommendations resulted from these sessions and at least one of them has been implemented nationally: efforts to improve students' writing skills prior to enrollment will be significantly increased and with the help of many Grinnell alumni, especially in Washington, DC.
2. The most time-consuming issue the Committee tackled in 2004-05 was the possibility of need-sensitive admission for international applicants. The Committee began examining the issue in 2002-03 and delayed finalization of its decision in light of the developing College-wide strategic plan. Eric Staab, Associate Dean of Admission and Coordinator of International Admission, guided the Committee's discussions, research, and proposals regarding need-sensitive admission. In the end, the Committee decided to experiment with need-sensitive admission of international applicants with the goal of maintaining the quality and quality of international students and better meeting the verified financial need of those students (effective for Fall 2006 enrollees).
3. The Advance Tuition Deposit – the Committee considered increasing the Advance Tuition Deposit paid by admitted students to hold their spot in the entering class. With the goal of better predicting new student enrollment, the Committee considered Grinnell's deposit history, the deposit amounts at other colleges, and the College's billing policies, and ultimately decided to keep the College's Advance Tuition Deposit at \$200.
4. Jim Sumner kept the Committee posted throughout the year on the progress of new student enrollment, including key quality markers, with regular reports.
5. New Viewbook – After seven years, the College developed a new admission viewbook in the spring of 2005 and the Committee members offered their opinions of various design and theme proposals. The Committee, Admission Board, and some other faculty members had additional opportunities to comment on the development of the viewbook.
6. Overview – the Committee also spent one long session receiving a report from Jim Sumner at the suggestion of Professor Moyer. Sumner provided a detailed expansion of the report he gave the full faculty in the winter: a careful look at the College's recent admission and financial aid past, its present situation, and its future. The report covered the critical issues of both the strategic and tactical developments regarding aid and new student 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 students 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 15, 2005.

Enrollment Profile as of August 15, 2005

	FALL 2001	FALL 2002	FALL 2003	FALL 2004	FALL 2005
PROJECTED ON-CAMPUS					
FALL ENROLLMENT	1303	1327	1410	1422	1449
Off-Campus Study, Fall	122	120	85	110	101
Total Fall Enrollment	1425	1447	1495	1532	1550
Personal/Medical Leaves, Fall	27	25	33	32	21
Total Off Campus, Fall	149	145	118	142	122
Off-Campus Study, Spring	68	109	96	99	77
ENTERING NEW STUDENTS					
Target Class Size	415	420	410	410	395
Entering Class Size	406	408	423	458	411
Male	193	181	195	206	196
Female	213	227	228	252	215
% Male	48%	44%	46%	45%	48%
% Female	52%	56%	54%	55%	52%
First-year Only	365	376	410	439	392
Transfer	39	27	9	17	15
One-year Exchange	2	5	4	2	5
WAIT LIST:					
Number on wait list	152	146	244	513	603
Number admitted	68	28	1	29	31
Number enrolled	29	11	1	22	21
Files read by Faculty Board	151	200	87	99	83
ETHNIC COMPOSITION:					
African-American	20	6	20	18	27
Asian American	17	19	26	25	31
Latino/a	13	10	21	18	27
Native American	4	2	6	1	0
% Class, U.S. Students of Color	13%	9%	17%	14%	21%
International	55	50	46	61	48
% Class, International	14%	12%	11%	13%	12%

Application Statistics

The following statistics provide comparative data for the fall entering classes, 2001-2005, 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 Preliminary Application, b) applicants who withdrew their application and c) applicants who failed to submit all required documents.

	Total Apps	Part I Only	Actionable Apps	Number Admitted	% of Total	% of Actionable	Number Enrolled	% Yield
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%
2005	3923	20	3243	1434	36.6%	44.2%	412	28.7%

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 2001-2005

	2001	%	2002	%	2003	%	2004	%	2005	%
I	245	83.9%	221	81.3%	242	78.6%	285	88.0%	259	89.3%
II	42	14.4%	43	15.8%	49	15.9%	37	11.4%	22	7.6%
III	3	1.0%	4	1.5%	7	2.3%	2	0.6%	6	2.1%
IV	2	0.7%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.0%
V	0	0.0%	3	1.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Entering Class Quality using Secondary School Rank – by Decile Fall Semesters 2001-2005

	2001	%	2002	%	2003	%	2004	%	2005	%
I	176	60.3%	155	57.0%	194	63.0%	219	67.6%	210	72.4%
II	69	23.6%	66	24.3%	58	18.8%	66	20.4%	49	16.9%
III	30	10.3%	30	11.0%	40	13.0%	28	8.6%	17	5.9%
IV	12	4.1%	13	4.8%	9	2.9%	9	2.8%	5	1.7%
V	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	6	2.0%	1	0.3%	5	1.7%
VI	1	0.3%	2	0.7%	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	1	0.3%

Mean Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) Scores, 2001-2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
SAT Verbal	667	675	671	683	685
SAT Math	665	661	665	682	677
ACT Composite	29.1	29.2	29.6	30.0	30.2

Median Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) Scores, 2001-2005

	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
SAT-Verbal	680	690	680	690	700
SAT-Math	670	660	680	690	690
ACT Composite	30	29	30	30	31

Financial Aid

Applicants, Fall 2001-2005

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Applicants for Admission	2,960	3,042	3,057	3,732	3,923
Applicants for Financial Aid	1,715	1,698	1,875	2,208	2,526
Applicants Tendered Admission	1,361	1,404	1,480	1,542	1,434
Financial Aid Awards Offered	1,183	1,184	1,276	1,418	1,336
Enrolled Aid Applicants	359	313	367	390	351

Average Aid Awards to Enrolled New Students, Fall 2001-2005

	GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP		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
2005-06	387	\$16,644	157	\$ 4,617	196	\$ 1,818