

August 21, 2008

TO: Members of the College Faculty
FROM: Jim Swartz, Committee on Admission and Financial Aid
SUBJECT: 2007-2008 Committee Report

This year's Committee met monthly during the academic year to consider issues affecting the admission and aiding of students at Grinnell College. The 2007-08 Committee consisted of faculty members Bob Grey, Eliza Willis, Vida Praitis, Sig Barber, and students Jacob Sagrans '09, Colin Thompson '09, and Nabila Mirza '11. Rounding out the committee were Seth Allen (Dean of Admission and Financial Aid), Arnold Woods, Jr. (Director of Student Financial Aid), and other staff as needed. The Committee was well served by Angie Story, Val McKee, and Connie Newport who assumed the role of committee secretary.

Minutes of the monthly meetings are available on the Dean's office website. A summary of the key topics that we discussed at our meetings follows:

1. Allen provided a profile on the entering Class of 2011 at the first meeting of the year, followed with regular reports on the Class of 2012 during the rest of the cycle;
2. The Committee reviewed the flagship admission material produced by Mark Edwards and had further conversations on the utility and appropriateness of the No Limits theme;
3. The Committee discussed the role and use of Early Decision in building a first-year class;
4. Allen led a discussion on defining the Grinnell College story for admission audiences and what makes Grinnell distinctive among its competitor institutions. The ensuing conversation provided language and anecdotes for the evolving themes of the Grinnell story;
5. The Committee discussed the timing and role of publications in recruiting a class and heard from Allen on a plan send publications sooner in the 2008-09 admission cycle to engage students earlier in the college search process;
6. In light of Grinnell's increasing selectivity, the Committee brainstormed on alternate ways to identify and admit the "best" students to Grinnell beyond the traditional selection measures of coursework, grades, testing, extracurricular involvement and essays;
7. Woods led a discussion on the recent changes in financial aid at Grinnell;
8. The Committee heard from Jon Edwards (Associate Dean of International Admission) on outcomes of international admission this year. Interest was focused on the diversity of international applicants with additional discussion on the college's recent move to a need-sensitive admission for international students;

9. The Committee, at the request of Allen, discussed the current admission application deadlines. After discussion it was recommended that admission proceed with a plan to move the Regular Decision deadline from January 20th to January 1st to allow application readers to review files earlier and to have more time to WINK top students (early notification).
10. The Committee discussed proposals brought by Nancy Maly (Interim Director of Admission) and Allen that Grinnell begin awarding credit to students who successfully complete either the French Baccalauréat or German Abitur examinations. The Committee supported moving the proposals to the Committee on Academic Standing for consideration.
11. The Committee further discussed a proposal brought by Sarah White (Associate Dean of Admission) that Grinnell recognize coursework in American Sign Language as meeting the College's entrance requirement for the purpose of admission.

With the campus set to welcome our new class in just a few days it seems a certainty that this year's incoming class will be Grinnell's second largest on record at 469 students (1993 was larger at 489). In spite of a decrease in acceptances by 5% this year, making this the most selective admission year in modern times, the college experienced an unprecedented jump in the percentage of students accepting our offer of admission this year which, combined with an unusually low summer melt of just 4%, brought the class in well over the 430 enrollment number targeted for this fall. I know Seth Allen will have more to share with you once the academic year begins.

The Committee and I thank you for your contributions and for your guidance in the important area of admission and financial aid. The right students not only make Grinnell the wonderful place it is but also contribute to the vitality and interest of our own work, in and out of the classroom, as faculty. Your efforts and interest are very much appreciated.

Attached is a report from the Office of Admission describing the entering class as of August 21, 2008.

Enrollment Profile

	FALL 2004	FALL 2005	FALL 2006	FALL 2007	FALL 2008
PROJECTED ON-CAMPUS					
FALL ENROLLMENT	1422	1449	1429	1529	1518
Off-Campus Study, Fall	110	101	136	113	128
Total Fall Enrollment	1532	1550	1565	1642	1646
Personal/Medical Leaves, Fall	32	21	25	25	23
Total Off Campus, Fall	142	122	161	138	151
Off-Campus Study, Spring	99	77	88	86	107*
ENTERING NEW STUDENTS					
Target Class Size	410	395	395	435	430
Entering Class Size	458	411	429	452	469
Male	206	196	210	208	217
Female	252	215	219	244	252
% Male	45%	48%	49%	46%	46%
% Female	55%	52%	51%	54%	54%
First-year Only	439	392	409	431	465
Transfer	17	15	17	18	2
One-year Exchange	2	5	3	3	2
WAIT LIST:					
Number on wait list	513	603	811	743	951
Number admitted	29	31	27	16	4
Number enrolled	22	21	23	13	3
Files read by Faculty Board	99	83	91	98	95
ETHNIC COMPOSITION:					
African-American	18	27	22	23	29
Asian American	25	31	32	35	37
Latino/a	18	27	24	27	38
Native American	1	0	2	3	2
% Class, U.S. Students of Color	14%	21%	19%	20%	23%
International	61	48	39	67	53
% Class, International	13%	12%	9%	15%	11%

*as of August 21, 2008

Application Statistics

The following statistics provide comparative data for the fall entering classes, 2004-2008.

	Total Apps	Actionable Apps	Number Admitted	% of Total	% of Actionable	Number Enrolled	% Yield
2004	3732	3090	1542	41.3%	49.9%	458	29.7%
2005	3923	3243	1434	36.6%	44.2%	412	28.7%
2006	3891	3213	1443	37.1%	44.9%	429	29.7%
2007	3973	3180	1569	39.5%	49.3%	452	28.8%
2008	4057	3305	1388	34.2%	42.0%	469	33.8%

Entering Class Quality

The following charts illustrate quality of the entering class using secondary school rank (by decile and quintile) and SAT/ACT scores

Entering Class Quality using Secondary School Rank – by Quintile Fall 2004-2008

	2004	%	2005	%	2006	%	2007	%	2008	%
I	285	88.0%	259	89.3%	238	84.4%	252	88.7%	221	84.0%
II	37	11.4%	22	7.6%	38	13.5%	29	10.2%	36	13.7%
III	2	0.6%	6	2.1%	6	2.1%	1	0.4%	5	1.9%
IV	0	0.0%	3	1.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.7%	1	0.4%
V	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Entering Class Quality using Secondary School Rank – by Decile Fall 2004-2008

	2004	%	2005	%	2006	%	2007	%	2008	%
I	219	67.6%	210	72.4%	181	64.2%	189	66.5%	170	64.6%
II	66	20.4%	49	16.9%	57	20.2%	63	22.2%	51	19.4%
III	28	8.6%	17	5.9%	21	7.4%	21	7.4%	26	9.9%
IV	9	2.8%	5	1.7%	17	6.0%	8	2.8%	10	3.8%
V	1	0.3%	5	1.7%	5	1.8%	1	0.4%	4	1.5%
VI	1	0.3%	1	0.3%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%
VII	0	0	0	0	0	0%	2	0.7%	1	0.4%

Mean Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) Scores Fall 2004-2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SAT Critical Reading	683	685	674	668	669
SAT Math	682	677	666	672	663
ACT Composite	30.0	30.2	30.5	30.3	30.1

Median Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and American College Test (ACT) Scores Fall 2004-2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SAT Critical Reading	690	700	690	680	680
SAT Math	690	690	680	670	670
ACT Composite	30	31	31	31	31

Financial Aid

Applicants, Fall 2004-2008

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Applicants for Admission	3,732	3,923	3,891	3,973	4,057
Applicants for Financial Aid	2,208	2,526	2,605	2,622	2,458
Applicants Tendered Admission	1,542	1,434	1,443	1,569	1,388
Financial Aid Awards Offered	1,418	1,336	1,273	1,357	1,236
Enrolled Aid Applicants	390	351	351	389	413

Average Aid Awards to Enrolled New Students, Fall 2004-2008

	GRANT/SCHOLARSHIP		LOAN		EMPLOYMENT	
	No. Students	Average	No. Students	Average	No. Students	Average
2004-05	417	\$15,415	157	\$ 4,507	200	\$ 1,753
2005-06	387	\$16,644	157	\$ 4,617	196	\$ 1,818
2006-07	363	\$16,649	165	\$ 5,033	234	\$ 1,862
2007-08	379	\$19,844	183	\$ 5,084	266	\$ 2,072
2008-09	424	\$24,138	205	\$ 3,388	301	\$ 1,966

Note: Although the initial financial aid package under Grinnell's new \$2,000 loan cap policy includes no more than \$2,000 in loan for on-time applicants, a student can choose to take out more need-based loan to cover the summer work contribution, academic year work contribution and/or the non-custodial parent expected contribution. Therefore, there are cases where need-based loan exceeds \$2,000 per year.