

Admissions Advisory Group

Background

Undergraduate admissions is distributed across seven colleges: AAP, CALS CAS, CHE, COE, ILR, JCB. Note: CIS is not an admitting college.

The Vice Provost for Enrollment (VPE) meets biweekly with the lead admissions officers from each of these units to discuss practical issues associated with the current admissions cycle as well as long-term policy issues that relate to equity and standards. Regarding the latter, faculty input is essential especially as the university must navigate an national undergraduate admissions scene that is changing rapidly. Decisions have to be made that will have a profound effect upon undergraduate instruction at Cornell.

To foster healthy interactions between admissions professionals and the faculty, an Admission Advisory Group (AAG) is being established that will work with the VPE and corresponding college officers. Its purpose will be to work collaboratively so that our evolving admissions policies are equitable and fair and remain consistent with our long term commitment to academic excellence and diversity.

Membership

The AAG shall have four faculty members that collectively understand (a) big college issues, (b) small college issues, (c) endowed college issues, and (d) contract college issues. It must be the case that

1. One member is from CAS.
2. At least one member is from a contract college, i.e., from ILR, CHE, or CALS.
3. At least one member is from a small college, i.e., not from CAS or CALS or ENG+CIS.

Staffing will be handled by deanoffaculty@cornell.edu through the [Nominations and Elections Committee](#).

Appointments and Workload

Terms are for two years and renewable once. However, two of the four appointments that have to be made in 2021 will be for just one year. That way, exactly half of the AAG membership will have terms that expire in any given year. There would be two meetings each semester with the VPE Admissions Group and one AAG-led discussion in the Faculty Senate each year.

Details

AAG members will not take responsibility for directing admissions. Their job is to maximize the two-way flow of ideas and proposals between the Senate and the VPE group. Timely statistics will have an important role to play both in terms of planning and accountability. Standardized tests, legacy admissions, and first generation outreach are obvious issues that need to be tracked. Essay question design, the role of AP scores and extracurricular activity in admissions, and how applicants are steered towards the “right” college are also topics worthy of discussion.