Report of the Admissions Policy Committee

May 13th, 2022
A New Committee of the Faculty Senate

• Membership
  • Alan Mathios (Chair)
  • David Lee (1-year term ending)
  • Kendra Bischoff
  • Valerie Aymer (will be leaving Committee)

• Meetings (All meetings included John Burdick (VP))
  • May 25th 2021
  • November 16th 2021
  • Next Meeting May 25th 2022
May 25th 2021 Meeting – Discuss Charge and Agenda Setting

• Charge:

The Admissions Advisory Group (AAG) is a faculty group that works with the Vice Provost for Enrollments (VPE) and college admissions leaders to ensure that Cornell’s evolving admissions policies are equitable, fair, and remain consistent with our long-term commitment to academic excellence and diversity.

AAG members do not take responsibility for directing admissions or participating in the reading of applications. Their job is to maximize the two-way flow of ideas and proposals between the Senate and the VPE group.
Topics Discussed at May 25th Meeting

• Introductions
• Review with Jon the Charge to the Committee
• Expectations from both sides:
  • What Jon hopes the committee can do to support his mission.
  • Process for committee bringing issues to Jon
• Cooperative agenda setting (set out possible topics to cover over the next few years)
  • Holistic Admissions: role of standardized test scores; how it is balanced with other components: essay, AP scores, transcript, class rank (if any) etc.
  • Strategies for building a diverse class (including first generation)
  • Handling of admission preferences (veterans, legacies, athletes, etc.)
  • Marketing of Cornell and the specific College fit
  • Central/College Level Admissions activities and balancing these
  • Transfer admissions (Guarantee Housing)
  • Financial Aid and its relationship to yield and diversity
  • Internal transfers
  • Community College pipeline
Topics Discussed at November 16th Meeting

• Update from Jon Burdick included:

• Overview, Summary and Reflection on Last Admission Cycle and any information on Early Decision numbers for current cycle

• Perspective on managing the dramatic increase in applications

• Background on Financial Aid and Timing of Informing Students of their Financial Aid Packages Prior to Commitment Decision Dates

• Background on standardized test requirements (test optional, etc.) and thoughts about future approach.
Summary of Discussion

1) Test Optional Discussion
   Examined admission outcome (acceptances) differences by applicants that submitted test scores versus those that did not (for test optional colleges)
   • Differences were minimal - with possible exception of College of Human Ecology

2) Discussion Surrounding Significant Delays in Financial Aid Packaging
   Many unfilled positions in Financial Aid Office (FAO) partly responsible for delays and restructuring of FAO underway with new resources
   Expect more timely aid packaging after restructuring

See follow-up article in Cornell Daily Sun: