

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE

Senate Committee on Admissions
(Final; Information)

AD.18.01 2017-2018 Annual Report

The Senate Committee on Admissions met twice during the 2017-2018 academic year, November 15, 2017, and 20 April, 2018, as of the drafting of this report.

At the November meeting, Dan Mann, Interim Associate Provost for Enrollment Management, provided an update on Enrollment Management. UIUC exceeded targets in 2017 for both new freshman and transfer student enrollment. Applicants totaled 38,965, new freshman enrollment was at 7,518 and new transfer student enrollment was at 1,380. Our top tier students had a similar profile to the University of Chicago and Northwestern. The freshman average ACT was up at 28.5 from last year's 28.4. The average SAT was 1390 (96th percentile). The academic profile has not changed over the last 5 years. UIUC had the most diverse freshman class enrolled in campus history and we had the most underrepresented minority (URM) students in the Big Ten (first for Hispanic/Latino and third for African American as of FY2016). Top reasons for decline included the cost (due to tuition rates and lack of scholarships/aid), location, and uncertainty regarding the State of Illinois budget.

Mann also presented a 66 page document that detailed the 2018 Admissions plan. The target for 2018 enrollment was set at 7,500 new freshman and 1,380 transfer students. Continued emphasis will be placed on enrolling Illinois residents and increasing diversity. Applications continue to rise each year, including Illinois residents, non-residents, and international students. He estimated 40,000 applications for Fall 2018. Continued concerns include the fact that tuition continues to rise and Illinois is one of the most expensive public universities in the country, not including tuition differentials that some students pay. Unmet need has also doubled over the last decade. Illinois aid packages are very modest and middle income families receive little or no aid. Upcoming challenges include increased competition among other universities, limited growth in Illinois residents (especially African American), cost of attendance, and competition specifically provided by the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In April, Andrew Borst, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, presented information regarding compliance review of campus admissions policies and practices. First, Borst provided documentation that outlined the number of appeals (to program or admission decisions) and final outcomes (admitted to university or denied admission). There was discussion on 1) the need to better understand the criteria informing appeal outcomes and 2) the need to extract demographic information from the data. Borst offered to provide the criteria, as well as a few case studies, at the meeting in the Fall. The Committee will then determine whether demographic information is necessary.

Second, Borst provided documentation consistent with the requirement to review the communications log. Data was provided for years 2015-to date. Borst requested committee

feedback regarding clarification of circumstances that required logging. Specifically, many third party entities are not aware of the firewall policy and are embarrassed when they are properly informed. It was the Committee's recommendation that the Admissions staff continue to log all third party calls regardless of intent. More internal training will be provided to staff to clarify the policy, as well as the most appropriate manner to handle third party calls.

Third, Borst provided an update on the Committee on the Admission of Student Athletes (CASA). In October 2017, wheelchair athlete applicants will be reviewed and provided support by Disability Resources & Educational Services (DRES). There was consensus that CASA is an exceptionally successful program on campus. Chair Boppart questioned the general lowering of GPA of CASA athletes from 2014 to 2016, and these data will be re-evaluated next year.

Fourth, Borst presented two primary changes to administrative procedures last week to the Undergraduate Dean's Council. The changes include: 1) a change in administrative procedure that will allow the campus to make admission decisions using students' self-reported ACT/SAT and TOEFL/IELTS (verified prior to enrollment) and 2) changing deadlines for regular decision applicants from 12/1 to 1/5. These changes primarily allow more students to apply to UIUC, either improving access or providing the ability to pick up more applicants not selected for Early Decision. The Committee did not express any concern regarding these proposed changes.

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