

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS
(Final; Information)

AD.20.05 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Senate Committee on Admissions

This report summarizes the activities of the Senate Committee on Admissions (AD) during the 2019-2020 academic year. AD met on October 16 and April 16. More detailed information is provided in the minutes of those meetings.

I. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE

AD.20.01, Review of the *Bylaws*, Part D.3 – Committee on Admissions

AD reviewed the *Bylaws*, Part D.3 and revisions were made to reflect the current activities of the committee. In the Fall, AD considers matters of policy concerning campus standards and procedures for admission, and forwards recommendations to the Associate Provost for Enrollment Management. The AD also reviews outcomes of student-athlete admissions. In the Spring, AD reviews third-party communications and decisions regarding student petitions to ensure ethical standards are maintained in procedures for admission. Finally, the *Bylaws* were revised to include a representative from the Office of Minority Student Affairs to the AD in an *ex officio* role.

AD.20.02, Presentation on Fall 2019 Enrollment

Mann provided an update on Enrollment Management and the Fall 2019 enrollment. UIUC enrolled an all-time high number of students (51,196), including 7,665 freshman with an average SAT score of 1348 and an average ACT score of 29. The new freshman class diversity is 21.8% vs. 20.8% over last year. Mann stated the increase in enrollment is attributed to the Illinois Commitment program and an increase in graduate students.

Mann reported that a concern for the future is an expected drop in high school graduates due to the 2008 recession when parents started having less children due to the recession. Admissions is projecting a loss of 250 freshman students by 2028 or a 4% reduction. The Office Enrollment Management is outlining a 5-10 year strategic to address this upcoming challenge. Once drafted, the plan will be shared with AD.

AD noted the need for an increase in scholarships to remain competitive with other Big Ten Institutions. AD also inquired about marketing to prospective students. Mann said Admissions is heavily recruiting across the country and considers the number of students in an area to determine the cost effectiveness to placing a recruiter in that area.

Overall, AD is impressed with the successes of the Office of Admissions and Enrollment Management on the UIUC campus. Leaders are well informed, data driven, and strategic in addressing existing and future challenges.

AD.20.03, Review of Admissions Appeals

The committee also reviewed and discussed the admissions appeals. No concerns were expressed.

AD.20.04, Review of Communications Log

Borst shared that overall the firewall is working well. For any inquiry that is made, the Admissions Office informs the caller of the policy. This has caused some callers to not pursue the inquiry any further.

Impact of COVID-19

The Senate Executive Committee requested feedback regarding the impact of COVID-19 on Admissions and Enrollment. Mann shared that recent surveys are suggesting that 25% of high school seniors may change their mind on where they may attend this fall. The reasons are not clear, but suspect students are not able to focus on schoolwork in home environment or don't value the off-campus experience. Mann shared that there are concerns regarding the international population. Fewer international students have responded to date than last year. Admissions have received calls from students considering deferring acceptance until next year (gap year) and are recommending that students wait as long as possible to make a decision. They have until the week before classes start in the fall to request a deference. A committee member shared that his students are indicating they will take a gap year if there is no face-to-face instruction in the fall.

AD feels there is no need for Senate involvement, as the Office of Admissions is working hard to mitigate any loss in enrollment. Specifically, they have started to release students from the waitlist and are actively communicating with students that call with concerns. In addition, financial aid has sent estimated award letters out to new students. Borst does not anticipate any substantial decrease in enrollment, nor any decrease in student quality.

Borst stated there are concerns regarding the application review process for next year due to Pass/Fail grading system currently in place at high schools, as this could potentially place more emphasis on SAT/ACT scores which may be a disadvantage to low income students. AD recognized that the Office of Admissions effectively considers standardized test scores in the context of the holistic review process. Borst also raised concerns about the legitimacy of future SAT/ACT scores. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the SAT and ACT are going to be available as in-home tests. Borst advised AD there may be need to reconsider the role of standardized test scores in the review process if the COVID-19

outbreak becomes prolonged (that is, students can't test) or if the test security of the in-home SAT/ACT become compromised. AD will revisit this concern next year in the Fall meeting.

ADMISSIONS

Marni Boppart, Chair

Christopher Ackerman

Jon Anderson

Matthew Braun

James Brennan

Jeannette Elliott

Kari Foss

Gloriana Gonzalez

Jennifer Hardesty

Matthew Hutchens

Darko Marinov

Eric Meyer

Sreehitha Sanku

Rochelle Sennet

Dana Yun

Kimberly Alexander-Brown, *ex officio*

Daniel Mann, *ex officio*

Elizabeth Spark, *ex officio*