

Admissions and Student Aid Committee

Minutes: Tuesday, Jan 20, 2015

In Attendance: Robin Kear (chair), Lauren Terhorst (secretary), Linda Dudjak, Julius Kitutu, Hilary Koller, Juan Manfredi, Carol Mohamed, Sanjeev Shroff, Janice Vance, Anna Mary Williford

Guests: Lauren Panetti (OFA), Debbie Rupert (OFA) Marty Levine (University Times)

Chair Robin Kear called the meeting to order.

Lauren Panetti, senior assistant director for undergraduate international admissions, discussed the history, application and admissions requirements, student profiles, recruitment, and next steps for undergraduate international students.

Prior to 2010, the Office of International Students (OIS) was responsible for international student admissions, now OFA is now responsible.

Application requirements include an online international student application fee and there is a deadline. Other required documentation includes official high school documents, SAT or ACT scores, TOEFL or IELTS scores, an essay (1-2 pages and in English) and financial documents. Documents need to be in English. Official outside credential evaluation is required (outside companies help to verify that documents are real).

Admission requirements include high school grades, looking for well-rounded curriculum with As and Bs. Standardized tests are also required; mostly see higher math scores and lower writing and reading scores. China and Iran do not offer SAT or ACT, so they fly to another country to take the test. In certain situations, the requirement is waived based on student need.

English language proficiency requirements: 95 or higher for TOEFL with 21 or higher in subsections. IELTS: 7.0 or higher with a score of 6 or higher in each subsection. Exemptions to TOEFL or IELTS: If students are citizens of a country where English is first language. 600 or higher in reading section of SAT (27 ACT english) or 500 /higher (23 ACT english) in SAT reading AND have four years of study in US. Fall 2012 average TOEFL score was 100; Fall 2015 was 103. SAT math 2010, 705, 2015, 738. Reading average in 2012 was 545, Reading average in 2015 was 606.

Number of applications in 2012 was 2,778 and as of 1/14/15 it is 912. In 2014, number was 1,883. TOEFL has been raised, which may have lowered number of applications. Top countries include China, South Korea, India, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, Canada, Nigeria, Ecuador, and Vietnam. In this group, Canada is exempt for TOEFL. Biggest drop in applications came from China, which is the largest pool from where we get applications.

Recruitment is performed via targeted e-mails, website translations, visiting international high schools, college fairs abroad, hosting in-country information sessions, personalized campus visits for international students living in US.

Students pay tuition deposit, then students send in documents regarding financial issues, visa, etc. There are fees associated with getting documentation ready. Student communicate with OIS. There is an international student orientation.

Top majors are engineering and business, but students are now branching out into arts and sciences. Computer science is also popular. Student affairs tracks retention. Students are required to have health insurance. Students are provided links to outside scholarship funds, and they are permitted to work on campus with student visa.

The content of the meeting was covered by Marty Levine for the February 5, 2015 University Times. "Pitt seeks more international undergrads" <http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=34122>

The next meeting will be held on Monday February 23, 2015 from noon to 1 in 229 Alumni Hall. Debbie Rupert, Senior Director, OAFSA, will speak about the recruitment and admissions process to increase diversity.