

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee  
Minutes 11/18/06

Patricia Beeson, Vice Provost for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies presented data on retention and graduation rates for the past several years. Retention rates have steadily increased over the past several years and are now even with competitive schools and only 4% below what the university considers schools we aspire to compete with. The retention rate from freshman to sophomore year is now 90% as opposed to 83% in 1991; rates for sophomore to junior year show comparable improvements. Retention of transfer students is lower, an issue the university is addressing by working with feeder schools, such as the area community colleges and through programs to better orient and socialize this group. Four year graduation rates have risen from 34% in 1991 to 52% in 2004; 6 year graduation rates in 2004 were at 70%. Surveys of students comparing the University of Pittsburgh to peer institutions showed that the most valued advice is from faculty advisors and early career counseling. Seventy percent of incoming freshman indicate plans for graduate or professional schools. A pilot study to encourage development of academic portfolios is underway in one of the residence halls.

Suggestions for future committee agendas included more information about orientation and socialization programs for transfer students and speakers to address selective scholarship awards. The next meeting will focus on transfer students, representatives from financial aid and honors college will be invited to the February meeting.

The next meeting will be at noon on Tuesday, November 21.