

Admissions, Retention and Financial Aid Committee (ARFAC)

Meeting of November 13, 2003

Present: Laurel Carrington, Paul Jackson, Beth Christensen, Barb Lundberg, Katherine Ruby, Rachel Erickson (student)

1. Draft of Financial Aid policy for New Students presented by Kathy Ruby. Policy mirrors that of policy covering returning students that was implemented last year, and it is consistent with (or better than) other institutions. Policy establishes April 15 as deadline to submit CSS profile paperwork. Late submissions may see a percentage decrease on financial aid gifts, although the financial aid office will continue to work with those students/families having special circumstances. The bottom line is that late submission results in no guarantee to meeting full demonstrated need.

Policy for returning students has worked well. Financial aid office has seen a reduction of late paperwork (150 students last year compared to 250 students the previous year).

2. Update on current recruiting/admissions class.

- Waived application fee for on-line submission this year to remain competitive as other institutions choose to do this. Applications are up 58% compared to previous year: early action 706 vs. 475, regular: 125 vs. 278, early decision 130 vs. 101. Very positive sign overall.
- Gender balance. See substantial numbers of women applying from throughout country, only about 1/3 of applicants are male.
- Quickly shared some background information on the early decision pool. Numbers and profile looks solid, but in a few months the story will be more complete and we'll be able to see if the numbers hold.
- Visits to campus are up and the student quality is high.
- Admissions celebrated Hmong New Year and conducted an outreach program to students of Hmong descent.
- Admissions continues to "college prep" outreach program in Minneapolis at Washburn and North High Schools. Program focuses on college life, applications and financial aid and does not specifically tout St. Olaf (although, the exposure is great).

3. Need sensitive admissions and commentary from the November faculty meeting. Barb's staff is working on modeling scenarios about the need sensitive admissions process for college council. By applying the need sensitive process to the last 2 years of admissions, we hope to see how moving to this policy potential affects the student profile at the college. In particular, admissions is concerned about impacts on gender, ethnicity/multiculturalism, geography, and academic abilities.

4. Next Meeting. Thursday, December 11, 2003. Time: 9:00 AM Location: TBD
Committee will hear a report on the Board of Regents decision regarding Need Sensitive Admissions and how applying these principles to the Early Decision pool impact the student profile.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Jackson