

Admissions, Retention and Financial Aid Committee (ARFAC) Committee

Minutes for April 9, 2002

Present: Jeanine Grenberg, Judy Kutulas, Barb Lundberg, Bob Hanson, Gary Wicks, Kathy Ruby, and Amy Schultz

Not Present: Paul Niemisto, Bill Green

This meeting was devoted to a brainstorming discussion of the challenges of encouraging a higher international student population at St. Olaf. With tuition increases, elimination of overseas recruiting, the more onerous burden of meeting full demonstrated need for international students, and more rigorous visa regulations, the number of international students has declined in recent years.

Suggestions considered for improving numbers included:

1. Becoming more pro-active about developing exchange agreements with other institutions abroad.
2. Initiating a "Faculty Action" program to elicit contributions from faculty to fund 1 to 2 international students a year.
3. Faculty becoming more pro-active in cultivating connections with colleagues abroad to establish exchange programs in targeted places.
4. Increasing the numbers of international visiting faculty

It was generally agreed that, given the "global perspective" commitment of the college, that this is a serious issue that demands attention. It was hoped that further ideas for improving the situation could be developed.