

Committee on Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid (C-UAFA) Annual Report 2007 - 2008

I. Executive Summary

During the 2007 - 2008 academic year C-UAFA met nine times (three meetings beyond the six required by Faculty Senate). The Committee received regular updates on the activities of the Office of Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid. In addition the Committee engaged in extensive discussion of several key admission and financial aid issues:

- A) Restrictive Early Action (REA)
- B) The Common Application
- C) Financial Aid Updates
- D) Alumni Interview Pilot Program
- E) Comparative Admit rates for applicant groups
- F) Task Force on Undergraduate Expansion
- G) Faculty Satisfaction Survey
- H) Class of 2012

II. Overview of the Committee

The membership of the committee for 2007 – 2008 included:

- Paul Switzer, Chair (Statistics)
- Chris Chafe (Music)
- John Eaton (Mechanical Engineering)
- James Lattin (Graduate School of Business)
- Joan Roughgarden (Biological Sciences)
- Steve Sano (Music)
- Timothy Stearns (Biological Sciences)
- Robert Waymouth (Chemistry)
- John Bravman, *ex-officio* (Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)
- Julie Lythcott-Haims, *ex-officio* (Dean of Freshman)
- Brad Osgood, *ex-officio* (Sr. Associate Dean of Engineering)
- Richard Shaw, *ex-officio* (Dean of Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid)
- Susan Stephens, *ex officio* (Sr. Associate Dean of Humanities and Sciences)
- Jerry Harris, *CoC Liaison* (Geophysics)
- Sarah Lee (Student '10)
- Sam Dubal (Student '08)
- Robert Toledo (Student '08)
- Shawn Abbott (Director of Undergraduate Admission)
- B. Pinar Basim (Director of Research)
- Karen Cooper (Director of Financial Aid)
- Diane N. Williams (Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid)

III. Report of Committee Activities

A. Restrictive Early Action (REA)

Stanford had a successful experience with the Restrictive Early Action program. Uncertain what the affect of the decision by Harvard, Princeton and other peer institutions to eliminate their early action programs would mean to our application numbers, to our surprise early applications remained consistent with last year. The success of the program can be seen in the high number of applications and the high yield rate.

B. The Common Application

The committee received outcomes on the use of *The Common Application* for the Class of 2012. Applications were at a 5% increase over previous years. This was the largest applicant pool in Stanford history. The application can be confusing and takes time for applicants to complete. *The Common Application* however, did not produce any significant bumps in our processing and minor changes have been implemented for the next application cycle. The Office of Undergraduate Admission will continue to use *The Common Application* for one more year then evaluate and if necessary make adjustments.

C. Financial Aid Update

Karen Cooper, Director of Financial Aid, summarized to the committee the enhancements approved by the Board of Trustees to the Financial Aid Policy. Under the new program, parents with incomes of less than \$100,000 will no longer pay tuition. Parents with incomes of less than \$60,000 will not be expected to pay tuition or contribute to the costs of room, board and other expenses. Students will still be expected to contribute their earnings from work during the summer and academic year. The program also eliminates the need for student loans. Other significant enhancements have been made to the program that will benefit aid recipients at all levels of income.

D. Alumni Interview Pilot Program

Acting on committee approval from last year The Office of Undergraduate Admission will offer an optional alumni interview to applicants attending high school in Atlanta, Denver, London, New York City, Philadelphia and Portland. The program is a one-year pilot scheduled for the 2008-09 admission season. In the spring of 2009 the pilot program will be evaluated for future expansion. The purpose of the alumni interview is two-fold. Alumni will have the opportunity to share their Stanford experiences with prospective students and convey their impressions of these candidates to the admission committee.

E. Comparative Admit rates for applicant groups

The committee received and reviewed data provided by the Statistical Sub-Committee comparing outcomes within various applicant groups. Discussions focused on these findings and if admission practices should change. Vice Provost John Bravman was not comfortable in taking any type of vote and expressed his trust in the Dean and the job he is doing. Dean of Freshman, Julie Lythcott-Haims, thanked the sub-committee on the thoroughness of their data and expressed that she and her office have a vested interest in the admitted classes and have been very pleased with the recent outcomes and trusts the work that the Dean and the Admission Office is doing. Professor Brad Osgood reminded the committee that the University's Accreditation will be up for review soon and that will serve as an appropriate opportunity to validate the work that is being done.

F. Task Force on Undergraduate Expansion

Jim Canales, member of the Board of Trustees and Jeff Wachtel, Senior Assistant to the President, addressed the committee on the newly formed Task Force on Undergraduate Expansion. President Hennessy organized this committee to analyze the potential benefits and consequences of increasing the number of undergraduate students admitted each year. Faculty, trustees and students comprise the committee whose task it is, is to consider if this is the direction to move. There are several key issues to consider least of which is not to compromise the quality of undergraduate education. Monthly meetings will be held through June and if necessary into fall when President Hennessey has asked for a full report.

F. Faculty Satisfaction Survey

The idea of a Faculty Satisfaction Survey was introduced by Committee Chair Professor Paul Switzer. The committee agreed and a short anonymous survey was distributed to approximately 800 undergraduate faculty. Over 400 responses were received with 234 providing written comment. Further discussion on the survey results will continue next year.

G. Preliminary results for the Class of 2012

Each year, C-UAFA reviews the statistics of the incoming class. The preliminary profile for the incoming Class of 2012 is as follows:

Stanford received 25,298 freshman applications compared to 23,958 last year. Offer of admission was sent to 2,400 applicants compare to 2,454 for the Class of 2011. Admit rate was 9.5%.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Switzer
Chair

Committee on Undergraduate Admission and Financial Aid