

FCAFA Proceedings - 1 November 2022

First in person meeting... since March 2020!

Present: Michael Hood (chair), Matt McGann (Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, ex officio), Cate Zolkos (Dean of Admission, ex officio), Gail Holt (Dean of Financial Aid, ex officio), Sonya Clark, Maria Heim, Amy Wagaman, Nicholas Torres '24, Arleth Rodrigues '24, Mia Griffin '24E

1. Welcome and introductions

- a. Admission Staff shared some highlights from the inaugural events of the past weekend, including having guests representing QuestBridge, College Horizons, Prep for Prep, and others on campus.

2. Supreme Court Hearings on 31 October 2022

- a. Matt went to DC to wait in line and be present in the hearing, and didn't make it in for the UNC Chapel Hill but was present for the Harvard University case.
- b. It seems that many Admission Offices around the nation are anxious about talking about this issue or taking a stand, and that it seems that in various social media and news outlets, the response has been quite negative about affirmative action. Amherst, though, was one of the primary faces appearing yesterday in defense of affirmative action.

3. Mock Application Exercise

- a. Three cases were selected to give the group a realistic and comprehensive sense of what the Admission review process is like at Amherst.
- b. The Admission Office uses Community Based Evaluation (CBE, two readers going through each application at a time), providing ratings for applications before forwarding them on to Final Committee. These facets of the process will not be used in this exercise.
- c. Admission Priorities:
 - i. Mission Statement highlights the primary considerations
 1. "Above all": "Intellectual promise"
 2. Several others, but notably, legacy is no longer weighed
- d. Exercise required group to choose whether to waitlist, deny, or accept each applicant.
- e. Comments about the exercise in hindsight:
 - i. Increased appreciation for the work done by the Admission Office
 - ii. Consensus that any one of these talented students could have done well here