

## FCAFA Proceedings - 22 February 2023

---

Present: Ron Lembo (chair and Professor of Sociology), 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), Angie Tissi-Gassoway (Interim Chief Student Affairs Officer), Sonya Clark (Professor of Art and Art History), Maria Heim (Professor of Religion), Jill Miller (Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies), Yvette Kiptoo '23, Loretta Alarcon '24, Nicholas Torres '24, Jalen Woodard '23

### **1. Welcome and introductions**

- a. New members (Ron, Angie, Jill, Yvette, Jalen) introduced themselves

### **2. Amherst's Test-Optional Pilot Program**

- a. Matt gave a short presentation on our current standardized test-optional policy
  - i. There are other small liberal arts colleges that are also test-optional
  - ii. Some Southern public universities, as well as Georgetown and MIT, have continued to require testing for the admission process
  - iii. There are also test-free schools: all UC campuses are test-free, meaning that whether or not an applicant submits scores, the scores will not be considered
  - iv. Overview of some of the original policies at Amherst, as well as Amherst's choices toward the end of the 20th century regarding testing
  - v. Discussed why students might choose to submit test scores in a test-optional environment and whether there could be any kind of predictor of GPA performance in college based on past standardized test scores
- b. As the pilot program completes its second full year in the admission cycle, Amherst must make a decision about what we will do about standardized testing by the end of calendar 2023, but ideally could make the decision this semester
  - i. Current high school sophomores have this very much on their minds
- c. Discussed whose perspectives across campus would be valuable to engage in considering whether Amherst will move forward in a test-optional format or not