

FCAFA Proceedings - 8 March 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), Maria Heim (Professor of Religion), Jill Miller (Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies), Nicholas Torres '24, Jalen Woodard '23

1. Approval of Minutes

- a. Members of the Committee unanimously approved minutes for publication to the website

2. Review of College Admission Talk with Ryan Park '05 on Thursday, March 2

- a. Those who were able to attend the event shared thoughts, reactions, and takeaways
- b. In the face of signs of how the case may turn out, the group was encouraged by the College's commitment to do everything within its legal power to continue to admit diverse classes in the future

3. Faculty Involvement in the Yield Stage of the Admission Process

- a. Some of the students in our pool will have many options in their college decision process, and are exceptionally difficult to yield
- b. When students come to campus and have the opportunity to interact with faculty, it makes a big impact (demonstrated in past statistics of admission programs on campus)
- c. One of the ways the Admission Office has approached this challenge is through the Early Write program, in which we ask faculty to consider reaching out personally to these students and offer information about their research/departments
- d. Shared ideas of the best ways to provide access to admitted students who visit campus to interact with professors without undue burden on faculty departments
 - i. Suggested that upperclass major students might be able to play a helpful role in providing insights for students regarding their major departments
- e. Discussed providing an interdisciplinary introduction to the Amherst education and Open Curriculum, helping admitted students to get a sense of broader areas of study that would be available to them at Amherst as opposed to emphasizing specific majors from the get go, before they even get here