

FCAFA Proceedings - 10 May 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), Mandy Hart (Associate Dean of Admission), Loretta Alcaron '24, Jalen Woodard '23

1. Revisiting Admission Preference Language

- a. The Committee has already discussed some of the ways that the Admission Office at Amherst has paid special attention to the requests of the faculty and community members on campus
- b. One such example is the preference for students who might follow a path in STEM by pursuing scientific research and/or doctorates after graduating, as opposed to simply moving straight into a degree in medicine
- c. The Admission staff will follow up with the Committee in the fall to hear more about faculty and student thoughts on admission preferences

2. Faculty Engagement in Access to Amherst (A2A)

- a. In the past, the classes that prospective students are able to visit during their time on campus have been cited as one of the most important elements of their experience, and for those who end up applying, as one of the main reasons they apply
- b. Faculty engagement in this program is essential, and this can mean being asked by Admission staff (or student interns who work in the Admission Office) to serve on panels during the program, or provide access to prospective students to visit their classes
- c. Discussed how best to communicate with faculty in anticipation of these kinds of programs, especially in terms of the extent to which students can engage in classes during their visit

3. Return to Discussion of 2023-2024 Admission Cycle

- a. Amherst has accepted multiple kinds of applications for admission to the College in the past, including both the Common Application and QuestBridge
 - i. Considering changes that seem to be upcoming in the larger scope of admissions in the United States, one of the priorities that the Admission Office will want to have going forward is *access*
- b. One of the elements of admission at Amherst that may seem to run counter to access is Early Decision
 - i. In the past, Early Decision played a huge role in Amherst's admission process
 - ii. There could be an argument to move from Early Decision to Early Action