

# FCAFA Proceedings - 25 September 2023

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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), Ellen Boucher (Professor of History), Adam Honig (Professor of Economics), Jill Miller (Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies), Angie Tissi-Gassoway (Chief Student Affairs Officer & Dean of Students), Francisco Reyes '24, Zane Khiry '25

## **1. Introductions and Welcome to New Members**

- a. Round of introductions for new members of the Committee: Adam Honig, Ellen Boucher, Francisco Reyes, Zane Khiry

## **2. Updates from the Admission and Financial Aid World**

- a. Matt shared an overview of the changes made by the Supreme Court case on race-neutral admissions, as well as the changes made to the FAFSA this year
  - i. Other Amherst specific changes include updating our website and major redesigns happening, and an update to the cost of attendance model at Amherst that will include textbooks (starting 2024-2025 academic year), as opposed to seeing that cost as a supplemental part of attending Amherst
- b. Gail shared her perspective on the changes being made to the FAFSA this year, and explained some work going on in the background to make the communication about what the changes will mean for students and families clear and straightforward
- c. Students shared about a new project in Education Studies called "Pipelines," that gives Amherst students the opportunity to work with and conduct research within the larger community around Amherst, partnering with organizations and schools near Amherst

## **3. Relevant Discussions on Campus Regarding Athletics in Admissions**

- a. Presentation of Amherst's athletic policies (related to our NESCAC affiliation, Division III, NCAA rules), and the rules and restrictions regarding athletic recruitment and admission policies
- b. Matt provided an overview of institutional data regarding admission, academic performance at Amherst, and backgrounds students come from (ethnically and socioeconomically) between Amherst athletes and non-athletes, as well as between Amherst and peer institutions
- c. Jill presented graphs with the data Prof. Jessica Reyes asked for in her memo to FCAFA, representing information about student background and academic reader ratings with specific visuals (athletes compared to non-athletes)