

FCAFA Proceedings– 22 April 2021

Via Zoom!

Present: David Hall (chair), Sonya Clark, Maria Heim, Michael Hood, Yvette Kiptoo '23, Karu Kozuma, Matt McGann (Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, *ex officio*), Obed Narcisse '21, Aidan Park '22, Cate Zolkos (Dean of Admission, *ex officio*).

1. Approval of Minutes 4/15

- a. Minutes did not upload successfully. Review of minutes was pushed to next meeting.

2. Urgent business and Updates

- a. Matt shared information about an article in the Amherst Student.
 - i. <https://amherststudent.com/article/students-demand-immediate-release-of-colleges-student-relief-funds>
 - ii. The article talks about a letter from the AAS about HEERF funds (Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds). The letter asked for the third round to be released quickly. Amherst does not have the funds right now, and is still working through the second round, but actively working on how to get the third round out. FAQ on financial aid website about how to access these funds:
https://www.amherst.edu/system/files/media/FAQ_HEERFIII.pdf
 1. The letter gives the sense that students have unmet needs right now. The emergency fund is a good route to direct them to while we wait for HEERF 3.

3. Revisit SCIR programs and Faculty Survey

- a. The committee revisited the origins of the SCIR (science research) program. The committee discussed the efficacy of and need for the SCIR initiative, as well as the prospect of instituting a similar program for other disciplines.

Meeting Schedule 2021

February 18; February 25; March 4; March 11; March 26 (CCAFA); April 1; April 8; April 15; **April 22**; April 29; May 6; May 12 (CCAFA)

Sonya Clark, Art and the History of Art; x5972

Ilyssa Forman-Roberts '22

David Hall, Physics and Astronomy (chair); x2072

Maria Heim, Religion; x8475

Gail Holt, Dean of Financial Aid; x2296

Michael Hood, Biology; x8538

Yvette Kiptoo '23

Karu Kozuma, Chief Student Affairs Officer; x2337

Matt McGann, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid; x2328

Obed Narcisse '21

Aidan Park '22

Cate Zolkos, Dean of Admission; x2328

Aly Levinson, Admission Counselor; x2328 (recorder)

Faculty Handbook IV.S.1.d The Committee on Admission and Financial Aid consists of four members of the faculty appointed by the Committee of Six for three-year terms, four students serving two-year terms to be chosen as described below and, as members, ex officio, the dean of admission and financial aid (secretary of the committee), the dean of admission, the dean of financial aid, and the chief student affairs officer. One of the faculty members is appointed by the Committee of Six as chair, normally after a year of service. It is hoped that different areas of the curriculum will be represented by the faculty members on the committee. The president will meet with the committee either at its invitation or on his or her initiative.

A College Committee on Admission and Financial Aid will convene under the chairmanship of the dean of admission and financial aid at least four times in each academic year. It will consist of the dean of the faculty, ex officio, and eight voting members: the dean of admission and financial aid, the dean of admission, the dean of financial aid, the chief student affairs officer, and the four faculty members on the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid. At a meeting early in the fall of each year, the College Committee on Admission and Financial Aid will review the composition and diversity of the first-year class, paying attention to such issues as the distribution of students by curricular and extracurricular strengths. The committee will reconvene in advance of the release of notifications of admission to early decision candidates (normally in December) and prior to the release of notifications of admission to regular round candidates (normally in March) to consider such information as it deems necessary to insure that

the college's stated policies are being implemented. At the end of each of these meetings the committee will vote on the admission actions recommended by the dean of admission and financial aid. The committee will hold a final meeting at the end of the academic year to review the outcome of the completed admission process (voted by the faculty, December, 1999).

Two students shall be elected by the student body for a two-year term to the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid. Following the election, the dean of admission and financial aid in consultation with the Committee on Admission and Financial Aid will appoint two additional student members for two-year terms. The four student positions are to be filled in staggered order, with one appointed and one elected position to be filled annually.

Because of Amherst College's commitment to equal opportunity and the role of the admission process in meeting an important part of this commitment, the presence on the committee of students from different minority and racial groups is especially valuable. In general, student members of the committee can provide particular advice on policy discussions about recruitment.

The primary function of the committee is to enhance communication between the faculty and appropriate administrative offices and in so doing to aid the faculty in carrying out its responsibility to formulate standards and policy for admission and financial aid. To these ends, the committee should review on a regular basis, through observation and quantitative studies, how adequately policy and practice are meeting stated goals, should develop and maintain mechanisms for communicating faculty opinion on the quality of our students to the staff, and should report annually to the faculty on the committee's work. Members of the committee should be sufficiently engaged in the admission process to enable them to carry out their responsibilities effectively (voted by the faculty, September 1984).

THE AMHERST COLLEGE ADMISSION MISSION STATEMENT

~Voted by the Faculty in 1983

Amherst College looks, above all, for students of intellectual promise who have demonstrated qualities of mind and character that will enable them to take full advantage of our curriculum. We seek qualified applicants from different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds students whose several perspectives might contribute significantly to a process of mutual education within and beyond the curriculum.

We aim to select from among the many qualified applicants those possessing the intellectual talent, discipline and imagination that will allow them most fully to benefit from our curriculum and contribute to the life of the college and society. Grades, standardized test scores, essays, recommendations, independent work, the quality of the secondary school program, and achievements outside the classroom are among the factors used to evaluate this promise, but no one of these measures is considered determinative.