

FCAFA Proceedings – 24 September 2021

Via Zoom!

Present: Michael Hood (chair), Liz Agosto, Sonya Clark, Maria Heim, Gail Holt (Dean of Financial Aid, ex officio), Michael Hood, Sage Innerarity '22, Matt McGann (Dean of Admission and Financial Aid, ex officio), Aidan Park '22, Amy Wagaman, Cate Zolkos (Dean of Admission, ex officio).

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review of the committee's charges (appended below)
 - a. The committee reviewed the committee's charge and its purpose 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." The committee must review admission and financial aid policies and how they meet the goals of the college.
 - b. In future meetings, the committee may discuss other stated goals beyond the admission mission statement, including the mission of financial aid and other college goals that admission plays a role in fulfilling.
 - c. A faculty member asked about past proposals to edit FCAFA's charge.
 - i. This year's FCAFA may revisit the changes to the charge. Any changes must be voted on by faculty.
3. Review of End-of-Year Summary from last May (attached to email)
 - a. The chair briefly reviewed the end of year summary, including FCAFA's work on the test optional policy, a Committee of Six exemption, early writes, financial aid policies, and legacy admission.
4. Pending issue of reviewing the use of race in the admission process
 - a. The college must product a report that assesses the necessity of use of race in the admission process to meet the college's stated goals; we will do that evaluation this year, and FCAFA is an appropriate group to be reviewing and discussing that process.
 - b. Matt provided additional context about the issue of considering race in admission, and the legal precedents.
 - c. FCAFA can help guide this college report.
 - i. The report will build off data compiled by previous deans of admission and financial aid, as well as new data.
 - ii. The committee should think about the goals of the college, how diversity supports those goals, and the possibility of "race-neutral" alternatives.
5. New business
 - a. Matt and Michael will discuss a timeline for FCAFA's agenda items.

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September 24; October 1; October 15; October 29; November 12; December 3

FCAFA Membership 2021-2022

Liz Agosto, Dean of Students and Interim Chief Student Affairs Officer

Sonya Clark, Art and the History of Art; x5972

Maria Heim, Religion; x8475

Gail Holt, Dean of Financial Aid; x2296

Michael Hood, Biology (chair); x8538

Sage Innerarity '22

Yvette Kiptoo '23

Karu Kozuma, Chief Student Affairs Officer; x2337

Matt McGann, Dean of Admission and Financial Aid; x2328

Aidan Park '22

Amy Wagaman, Statistics

Cate Zolkos, Dean of Admission; x2328

Remaining members to be announced

Aly Levinson, Assistant Dean of Admission; x2328 (recorder-designate)

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.