

Committee on Priorities and Resources
Meeting Minutes – May 18, 2021

In attendance: Professor Javier Corrales; Professor Andrew Dole; Professor Jill Miller, chair; Professor Monica Ringer; Library Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper Susan Bradley; Interim Director of Human Resources Chris Casey, *ex officio*; Retail Dining Assistant Peter Charron Director of Financial Planning Thomas Dwyer, *ex officio*; Provost and Dean of the Faculty Catherine Epstein, *ex officio*; Chief Financial and Administrative Officer Kevin Weinman, *ex officio*; Allie Ho '24; Sydney Ireland '23; Steven Hegarty, recorder

Not in attendance: Jae Yun Ham '22, *ex officio*

Guests: Brooke Harrington '22; Chief Student Affairs Officer Karu Kozuma; Dean of Admission and Financial Aid Matt McGann

The meeting came to order at 8:30 am.

Proceedings

1. Matt reviewed the class size outlook for Fall 2021, and previewed the class of 2025 for CPR.
 - a. The Class of 2024 consisted of 434 students, and 44 deferred admission to the Fall of 2021. The size of the Class of 2025 is 478, plus the 44 students who deferred. In total, there will be as many as 522 students in the first-year class.
 - b. For the Fall, AC expects a housing crunch due to the larger incoming class, more 22E's than usual, and less students away in study abroad programs.
 - c. Overall, applications were up by 32% to almost 14,000. The admission rate was below 8.5%, and the yield was 40%.
 - d. Demographic profile: More than half of domestic enrolling students are students of color. Matt also shared data for gender identity and socioeconomic status.
 - e. Pandemic financial aid enhancements are being reset to pre-pandemic status. For example, the summer work requirement is returning. Families that have been impacted by the pandemic have received enhanced financial aid packages. However, the student emergency fund will continue. Matt noted that the pandemic financial aid enhancements required a significant and extraordinary financial commitment from the College, with millions spent to meet the college mission.

CPR Questions:

- f. Javier thanked Matt for the great news and asked if Admissions has enough resources to complete their work. Typically, there is a goal of one admissions officer for every 1,000 applications. Amherst was slightly short handed in the current year. The voluntary retirement program will allow reallocation of positions, and possibly adding an additional Admissions as well as Financial Aid officer.
- g. Andrew requested an update on athletic recruitment, and racial and demographic information for varsity athletes. The incoming class is 30% varsity athletes, a typical percentage. In general, this group is less diverse than their overall class, but will be more diverse than

previously. Often more affluent and less likely to be first generation attending college. Admissions partners with coaches to identify the students to recruit.

- h. Sydney asked if AC has the most socioeconomically diverse student body among our peers. Matt would need a broader sampling to know, but Princeton has achieved similar levels.
2. Karu fielded questions related to planning for the fall, especially in light of the many more students on campus.
 - a. There has been evolution and change throughout this year. For the fall, the college will be returning to “full” operations, but not necessarily “normal”. In particular, there will be housing pressures. Already, some students are looking for off campus leases.
 - b. Summer will be a preview of life in the Fall. Students will be allowed off campus, and be able to receive deliveries. Currently no visitors will be allowed.
 - c. Global education is planning for students who have expressed interest in study abroad, but it is unknown if study away can happen.
 - d. The college is requiring vaccination for all students for the fall, along with arrival tests. There will be some medical exemptions from vaccination, noting that vax numbers are already high. AC will provide access to vaccines for students as needed.
 - e. The college will be returning to full occupancies, following CDC and state guidelines. Student organizations will resume full activities. Use of the Powerhouse, Friedmann Room, and other spaces will be reinstated, while continuing to use the outdoor options such as the Science Center amphitheater. Dining hopes to return to full dine in, and is also considering keeping some of the grab and go options.
 - f. Javier asked about international students on campus who cannot travel, and if there is a problem renewing visas or passports. The college is working one on one with the international students. Some who are currently on campus want to go home, others will remain on campus for the summer. Students not currently on campus may have difficulty finding an embassy appointment. Some embassies are not accepting visa appointments, or are just starting with a backlog.
 - g. Brooke asked if there will be restrictions for parties and other gatherings on campus. Students are considering off-campus living for this reason. Sizes are under consideration, and Student Affairs is returning to a preregistration system for parties. AC wants people to be safe, noting there were fewer intoxication issues and damage incidents in AY20-21.
 - h. Brooke also asked if parents and other visitors will be allowed in the fall, for events such as parents weekend and sports. Currently, the intention is to return to an open campus.
 3. Today is the last CPR meeting of the year. Jill thanked the committee for their work. The remaining minutes and annual report will be distributed over email for review and comments.

Adjourned 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,
S Hegarty