

University of Pittsburgh Faculty Senate  
Student Admissions, Aid, and Affairs Committee

November 17, 2022 3:00 PM

Minutes

(video recording available upon request)

Meeting Called to Order 3:00pm

Attendance

**Elected Members**

Natasha Baker, Dental Medicine  
Nancy Glynn, Co-Chair, School of Public Health, Epidemiology  
Thottala Jayaraman, Dental Medicine  
Clare Russell, Dietrich School, Department of English  
Uma Satyavolu, Dietrich School, Department of English  
Susan Skledar, School of Pharmacy  
Sybil Streeter, Co-Chair, Dietrich School, Department of Psychology

**Student Representatives**

Danielle Floyd, SGB President  
Ayanna Freeman, CGS

**Chancellor's Liaisons**

Kenyon Bonner, Vice Provost for Student Affairs  
Mark Harding, Vice Provost for Enrollment

**Senate Appointments**

Robin Kear, Senate President  
Jennifer Seng, General Counsel

**Guests**

Kellie Kane, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment  
Stephen Wisniewski, Vice Provost for Budget and Analytics  
Amanda Brodish, Associate Vice Provost for Data Analytics  
Joe McCarthy, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies  
Shannon O'Shea, University Communications  
Bridget Keown, Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies Program

1. Approval of October 2022 Meeting Minutes
  - a. approved
2. Provost Updates Guests: Steve Wisniewski, Vice Provost for Budget and Analytics; Joe McCarthy, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies; Amanda Brodish, Associate Vice Provost for

Data Analytics: 2021 First-year cohort of full time students (tracked for retention and graduation rates)

- a. 4,869 admitted DSAS increase 14%
    - i. CBA increase 11%
    - ii. SSOE increase 16%
    - iii. Nursing increase 3%
    - iv. SCI increase 19%
    - v. across all schools (14% increase over 2020) – 13% over target
    - vi. Class section sizes – no pattern of larger than expected class size,
      - 1. Based only on enrollment – waitlists and # or percentage of enrollment cap increases/decreases not explored
      - 2. McCarthy: to a certain extent enrollment caps dictate the curves
  - vii. GPA trends (Asterisk of S/NC policy for fall 2020 cohort which increased GPAs)
    - 1. Not a huge decline for 2021 cohort, but need to take world events into account
  - viii. Retention (defined as enrolled part time or full time on any Pitt campus)
    - 1. No change for DSAS or Nursing; declines for CBA, SSOE and SCI
    - 2. Retention rates remain high overall
      - a. Nat average retention = 80%; Pitt over 90%
      - b. Decline represents students leaving University
    - 3. Risk factors for unretained
      - a. Follow up survey to students who leave – 25-50% response rate
      - b. Hard to track – complicated by pandemic
      - c. Bonner reports financial and environments top reasons
  - b. Impact on test-optional admissions: 49% Fall 2021 incoming cohort applied test-optional
    - i. Diversity: clear pattern of test optional students being more diverse with respect to socioeconomic status and race and ethnicity
      - 1. Pell-eligible fall 2017 = 14.77%; Fall 2021 = 18%
        - a. % First Generation: Small increase in overall, but of first-gen, 9.6% submitted scores; 19.8% did not
        - b. % who identify as Black: no change overall (8%); 11% of Test-Optional students identify as Black, as compared to 4.9% of test-submitted students
        - c. % or students who identify as Latinx
          - i. Increase 4.4 – 7.0%
          - ii. Test optional = 9.2; 4.9% of test-submitted
    - ii. GPA adjusted for HS GPA, gender, race/ethnicity, Pell and first-gen status
      - 1. test optional students lower GPA compared to not test optional students in both fall and spring
        - a. significant interaction between test optional status and term: adjusted data suggest test-optional GPA increases fall → spring; non test-optional decline slightly.
  - iii. Retention
    - 1. No difference between test-optional and others in retention
- c. Summary
- i. ½ admitted class was test-optional; varied by school
  - ii. Test-optional students more diverse in terms of race, SES and first-gen status
  - iii. Test-optional had slightly lower GPA, but similar retention

d. How to spread these data? Senate Matters column?

3. New Business

- a. April graduation application dates for students – esp grad student concern – Amanda Godley will report back