

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee  
Minutes 2/20/07

Betsy Porter, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, presented an overview of scholarships and financial aid packages available to incoming students. Her office maintains a web site and holds daily and week end informational programs for prospective students and parents. Summer programs target potential applicants, Fall term programs are geared toward applicants and Spring term targets admitted students. Merit based scholarships are awarded to a segment of the admitted student population based on criteria approved by the Provosts' Office. A percentage of awards based on merit serves to reduce the student's aggregate need in the financial aid packaging process; 16% of the Class of 2006 received merit awards. These awards are related to, but not directly correlated with, eligibility for the Honors College. Need-based financial aid packages are arranged through the Admissions and Financial Aid office; eligibility is determined based on the cost of attendance to the University of Pittsburgh and the expected family contribution of each student. Aid is available through scholarships, grants, low interest loans, and subsidized employment for qualifying students; counselors in Ms. Porter's office are available to students throughout the school year without appointment. She explained that the currently proposed increase to Pell grants (through the federal government) will significantly reduce the University's funds for need based financial aid. Several issues and questions related to individual student situations were raised; discussion of other schools' approaches to financial aid packages and their relevance to the University's protocol followed. The next meeting will be held on March 20, 2007 and will focus on the Honor's College policies and procedures.