

University of Pittsburgh Faculty Senate
Student Admissions, Aid, and Affairs Committee
September 21, 3:00 PM
Minutes
Called to order 3:00pm

Attendance:

Elected Members:

Natasha Baker, Dental Medicine
Barbara Dewhirst, co-chair, School of Nursing
Nancy Glynn, co-chair, SPH
Thottala Jayaraman, Dental Medicine
Erin Mathia, HSRS
Chenits Pettigrew, Medicine
Clare Russell, Dietrich School, Department of English
Susan Skledar, School of Pharmacy

Student Representatives:

Lauren Wasser, UPPDA
Ryan Young, SGB

Staff Council:

Tasha Peacock, Institute of Politics

Pro-tem:

Ron Odoko, Office of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Chancellor's Liaisons:

Kenyon Bonner, Vice Provost for Student Affairs
Amanda Godley, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies
Marc Harding, Vice Provost for Enrollment
Stan O'Loughlin, General Counsel

Senate Appointments:

Robin Kear, President, Faculty Senate

Guests:

Craig Grooms, Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Kellie Kane, Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Molly Swagler, Office of Admissions and Financial Aid
Shannon Wells, University Communications

Meeting was called to order by Nancy Glynn, co chair.

Nancy introduced Mark Harding, Vice Provost for Enrollment. Mark discussed with the committee the recent ruling by SCOTUS and its impact on enrollment at the University of Pittsburgh.

Guest: Mark Harding overview of comments:

- I think some timeline is very important to chat about here. As you know, just 10 weeks ago the SCOTUS ruled that race-based admission were unlawful. On that same day there was a statement put out by the University Provost office. I want to read this. I feel its worth reading and having on record too.
 - *“The University Mission is to improve lives through education and knowledge. We believe that all of our students can and should benefit from this mission in that diversity in all of its forms enhances our individual and shared success, and improves the educational experience. In the wake of today’s ruling, these guiding principles remain unchanged. We are evaluating our admissions practices to ensure that they continue to be inclusive and fully compliant with the law.”*
- I also think it is important to recognize that today’s ruling does not impact athletic admissions.
- Our commitment is rock solid!
- Mark shared that on August 14th guidance came from the US Dept. of Education. He felt further guidance was needed and is hoping that is coming soon.
- Mark also shared that there are over 2 dozen application centers across campus, ie: graduate programs, schools, professional schools, etc. Therefore a group of admissions representatives from all areas are meeting regularly along with general counsel.
- Its important to remember that we, as a university do not have early decision or early action. WE have rolling admissions, which is an equitable practice, we have no legacy admissions and we are now test optional.
- Stan O’Loughlin confirmed the above and reiterated much of what Mark was saying.
- Kellie Kane informed the committee that admissions is based on academic record, HS curriculum, HS transcript. These wholistic factors will be sure that we have a diverse university.

Molly Swagler, Pitt Admissions confirmed what the others were saying:

- We have a targeted outreach and will continue to do this. However, there is a script we use to describe the “Pitt Student” and what that student looks like, what they should possess.
- We have 11 regionally based recruiters in key areas we know there are audiences we’re trying to reach.
- We try to create inclusive events on campus. We are intentional about what the student experience is like for underserved and how we as a campus community do to assist them.

Dr. Godley (Graduate School)

- Stated they are collaborating with undergrad admissions
- They met with schools over the summer to discuss the SCOTUS decision and the law and Pitt’s commitment to continue to be a diverse learning environment.
- 97% of the programs reported using holistic admissions strategies

A brief question and answer period followed.

The meeting was adjourned by Nancy Glynn

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Dewhirst PhD, RN, CNL, CHSE

Co-Chair