

Admissions and Student Aid Committee
Minutes: Tuesday, November 25, 2014

In Attendance: Leonard Baido, Kellie Kane, Robin Kear (chair), Julius Kitutu, Hillary Koller, Carol Mohamed, Juan Taboas

Regrets: Linda Dudjak (on leave), Marc Harding, Juan Manfredi, Lauren Terhorst (secretary), Anna Mary Williford

Observer: Marty Levine (University Times)

Chair Robin Kear called the meeting to order.

Kellie Kane, Director of Operations and Strategic Planning for the Office of Admissions and Financial Aid (OFA), introduced the committee to changes that will take place in spring 2016 to the college admissions test, the SAT (formerly Scholastic Aptitude Test). The College Board administers the SAT and plans for the new test to align better with the current high school curriculum and show that students are ready for college. Due to market pressures and feedback from high school guidance counselors, the SAT is becoming more like the ACT test. Although some high school students take both, each of these tests dominates regionally in the United States with the SAT dominating in Pennsylvania. Many colleges and universities will take the scores of both tests and may require one or the other as part of their admissions process. At Pitt, of all applicants, in 2013-14, 43% took the ACT and 87% took the SAT. In 2005-06, 20% took the ACT and 99% took the SAT. At Pitt, the SAT/ACT score never makes or breaks an admissions decision. The scores are a good starting point for the holistic admissions process that Pitt utilizes.

There will be 8 key changes: relevant words in context, command of evidence, essay analyzing a source, focus on math that matters most, problems grounded in real-world contexts, analysis in science and in history/social studies, founding documents and great global conversation, and no penalty for wrong answers. The current test has 3 sections with 800 points possible per section. The new test will have 2 sections with 800 possible points per section and a separate score for an essay. New test specifications and further explanations of the changes are available on the College Board website, <http://www.deliveringopportunity.org>. For the new test, there will be complete, free testing preparation through the Khan Academy.

At this early stage, OFA is still planning on how to administratively handle the change in test scores. At a later date, the College Board will offer concordance tables to compare new scoring to previous scoring. (Pitt asked to participate in the validity study to create the new tables.) It will be beneficial for the committee to hear about this topic again at a later date.

The content of the meeting was covered by Marty Levine for the December 4, 2014 University Times. "SAT being revised, again" <http://www.utimes.pitt.edu/?p=33416>

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday January 20, 2015 from noon to 1 in 229 Alumni Hall. Lauren Panetti, Senior Assistant Director, OFA, will speak about the recruitment and admissions process for our international students.