

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee
Minutes 3/20/07

Alec Stewart from the Honors College discussed the program and merit awards for eligible students. The Chancellor's Award, typically given to 12-18 entering students on the basis of scholarship, adds room and board to the financial aid package. He discussed the interview, recruitment and selection processes for the Honors College. Interviewers review essays, biographies and letters of recommendation, looking for the applicant who is intellectually curious as well as academically qualifies; the college relies heavily on student ambassadors in the process. The controversial nature of merit vs. need scholarships was discussed by the committee; awards comparable to the Chancellor's award at Pitt include the Faisan, Henderson, and LaVelle. Betsy Porter outlined the recruitment of students eligible for the Honors College beginning with selected mailings to high school juniors with PSAT scores in the 1450 range and their parents. The Admissions office and Honors College work together to interview and recruit qualified applicants. The committee discussed the issue of merit awards available to upper level students who excel in their programs; such incentives are currently offered at the department or school level rather than by the University. The next meeting will be held on April 17, 2007 and will focus issues solicited by committee members from faculty and staff in their departments and schools.