

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee Meeting

January 30, 2015

Minutes

Members Present: Tom Delahunt, Lou Ann Simpson, Melissa Sturm-Smith, Keith Summerville, Andrea Kjos, Susan Ladd, Lori Blachford, Laura Linn, Melissa Sturm-Smith, Kevin Lam

- I. Admissions Report (Tom Delahunt)
 - a. Down about 20-25 deposits relative to last year; still early
 - b. Prospectives waiting for financial aid – waiting to see deals from other places
 - c. Some other privates may be moving to drop tuition rates for next Fall
 - d. Tom distributed data share from other Midwestern privates
 - i. Bradley, Butler, Creighton, Denver, DePaul, Evansville, Loyola, Marquette, TCU, Valpo and Xavier all down in deposits.
 - ii. SLU sent email to guidance counselors stating increase in merit awards coming and asking for more applicants for Fall '15
 - iii. Competition for students will be fierce
 - e. First NAS day is Feb 7th
 - f. Alumni Home receptions starting now (18 total)
 - g. SJMC (Wright and Richardson) doing Missouri road show

- II. Test optional report-outs
 - a. For students with 3.0 or higher, VCU just announced that it will go test-optional.
 - b. We tell common app what our requirements are – so we can move to test optional without it changing how students interact with common app.
 - c. Library report-out: 'worth trying' – a few questions about home school students and their preparation and how this would interact with common application students.
 - d. SoJMC – haven't met as a faculty yet. Difference in opinions between the value / worth of the SAT versus the ACT. "What would the new hurdle be to tell us that you're ready to enter Drake." Scared to let some of the emphasis on writing competency go. Will this have an effect on Drake's reputation or perceived value. Need to pay very clear attention to writing skills. *Drake currently does not require the writing test scores from SAT or ACT.....*
 - e. SOE – faculty view the move to test optional with mixed assessment. Some faculty view standardized testing as biased towards certain demographics. Main questions – does test optional = lower standards. Second question – can we use financial aid in a more need-based way rather than a merit-based way.
 - f. CoPHS – Similar concerns – reputation, etc. People in this unit had more concerns than now – worry about math/science preparation. Testing in CoPHS is an important part of licensure and SAT/ACT help prepare students for the 'testing environment.' If we get rid of SAT/ACT, we would probably have to rely on PCAT for student assessment. We have

a separate app process for Pharm D., so we could easily continue to require test score submission.

III. CREW update

- a. 21 EFR as CREW came into Drake with slightly lower GPA than average and they are performing as well as other EFRS (on average).
- b. Retained the 2013-2014 CREW at a high rate (100%).
- c. Take the Climate Assessment