

Annual Report of the Faculty Senate Committee on Admissions 2016-2017

Committee members:

Elected

Robert Friedman	Biological Sciences (2017)
Karen Gavigan (Chair 2017-2018)	Library and Information Sciences (2019)
Chen Zhou	Business (2018)
Cormac Cannon	Music (2019)
Laura Litwer	Libraries (2019)
Nikkie Wooten (Chair -2016-2017)	Social Work (2017)

Appointed

Scott Verzyl, ex-officio, Secretary	Admissions
Sandra Kelly	Provost's Office
David Tedeschi	Physics (2019)

During the 2016-2017 academic year, the committee met three times: November 22, 2016; March 15, 2017; and May 4, 2017. A summary of key updates and actions are noted below.

November 22, 2016

1. 2016 Freshman class update
 - 5104 freshmen (Profile: AVG Weighted GPA 3.99, 1215 SAT, 27.3 ACT)
 - 500 Honors College (Profile: AVG Weighted GPA 4.65, 1442 SAT, 32.4 ACT)
 - 962 Capstone Scholars (Profile: AVG Weighted GPA 4.40, 1315 SAT, 29.5 ACT)
2. Gamecock Gateway (residential bridge program) update
 - 420 students (Profile: AVG Weighted GPA 3.26, 1007 SAT, 21.3 ACT)
3. SAT and HS Grading Scale update

The committee was updated on several changes to the SAT and the SC Uniform Grading Scale (SCUGS) that will impact class of 2017 and beyond.

- College Board recently redesigned the SAT. First administration was in March 2016. Students applying for Fall 2017 terms and beyond are affected. SAT changes necessitated updating the admissions index to accommodate the new SAT concordance tables.
- SCUGS changing from 7- to 10-point grading scale impacts 2017 high school graduates and beyond.
- Changes in both SAT and SGUGS will be reflected in future class profiles.
- Changes in both the SAT and SCUGS are prompting discussions in the SC Assembly and the SC Commission and Higher Education to reconsider minimum grades and scores needed to earn lottery scholarships. Discussions are ongoing. Criteria are in statute. Amendments are expected.

4. Annual report to the committee on behavioral review cases
 - *For the Spring, Summer and Fall 2016 terms, a total of 34,093 applicant responses to behavioral questions were screened by admissions. Of these, 372 were flagged for additional review by the ad hoc committee on behavioral; 21 were reviewed by offices outside of admissions, and 4 were denied.*
5. Election of 2017-2018 committee chair
 - *Elected Karen Gavigan, School of Library and Information Science and College of Information and Communications elected chair for 2017-2018.*

March 15, 2017

1. Scott Verzyl provided the annual update on the International Accelerator Program (IAP) Shorelight Partnership, including overall enrollment, academic performance, and transition to degree seeking programs.
 - As student performance has generally been satisfactory, the committee decided to extend the previously approved policy exception for admission from IAP to degree-seeking status.
2. The committee discussed a proposal from IAP to reduce from 30 to 24 the number of hours required IAP students must complete before they can be admitted as degree-seeking.
 - The discussion was tabled until the next meeting to allow time for the committee to consider the proposal and gather more information.

May 4, 2017

1. Discussed proposal by International Accelerator Program (IAP) to change existing credit hour minimum (30 hours) and minimum GPA required for students seeking progression from IAP to degree seeking status. Committee approved request to consider exceptions to current policy in the following cases:
 - Admit IAP s who have successfully completed 27 hours and all major progression requirements with 2.75 GPA or major GPA, whichever is higher.
 - Limit this option to students beginning IAP in spring or summer terms. Fall IAP start students will not be considered.
 - Exceptions to the above will be considered on case-by-case basis and must be reviewed by Undergraduate Admissions Office or Faculty Senate Committee on Admissions.
2. A proposal concerning military associate and military special applicants was presented and discussed. The attached proposal was approved as presented (see below).
3. A fall 2017 application update was provided. Unofficial projections for the freshman, transfer, and Gamecock Gateway classes were provided. Official counts will be presented following the October 2017 census date.
4. The committee thanked Nikki Wooten for her service as chair and welcomed Karen Gavigan as the incoming chair for 2017-2018.

5. Effective 2017-2018, Mary Wagner, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions, will take over as Secretary, Ex Officio.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Scott Verzyl, ex-officio, Secretary

Military Associate and Military Special Applicants

Military Special Non-Degree Applicants

Prospective students who are active armed servicemen/women may apply for non-degree admission to the University of South Carolina Columbia. After the Office of Undergraduate Admissions verifies their eligibility, the student can be admitted for non-degree admission. The admissions office may request academic credentials as needed in order to assess a student's level of academic preparedness.

The non-degree application fee is waived for these applicants.

Military Associate's Degree Applicants

The following prospective students are eligible to apply for the Military's Associates degree:

- Active Duty Military Servicemen/women
- Spouses of Active Duty Military Servicemen/women
- Department of Defense Civilian
- National Guard
- Reservist
- Veteran

Current Admissions Requirements: All Military Associate's degree applicants are required to meet minimum admission requirements. Applicants with prior college work are expected to have at least a 2.25 on all previously attempted college-level work to be considered for admission.

Issue: Some Military Associate applicants do not have a 2.25 cumulative GPA. These students are denied admission and given the option to enroll as non-degree students.

Proposed change: The Office of Undergraduate Admissions is requesting the latitude to evaluate Military Associate applicants (**servicemen/women (not spouses)**) who have a minimum 2.0 GPA on all previously attempted college-level work on an individual basis. The admissions office would consider the following factors: age, overall collegiate GPA (did the GPA improve, when was it attempted, enrollment patterns/gaps in enrollment, and trends in performance), and potential for academic success at the University of South Carolina.