

Report to the George Mason University Faculty Senate from the GMU Admissions Committee
For the Academic Year 2016-2017

The University Admissions Committee consists of the following members:

Estella Blaisten-Barojas, Ashley Yuckenberg (chair), Matt Peterson, Cristiana Stan, Elizabeth Demulder, Marie Kodadek, Darren Troxler, Qiliang Li

Admissions Committee Charge:

Follow the admissions process in order that the faculty might better understand it; make recommendations regarding admissions standards to the Director of Admissions; report admissions recommendations and statistics to the Faculty Senate on an annual basis.

Undergraduate Admissions:

The introduction of the Common App this year created about a 3,000-4,000 application increase, and approximately 95% of applications were common app submissions.

Admissions is still working on Transfer student applications as of our last meeting at the end of March. Admissions hopes to enroll 2,950 students, and receive around 6000 applications. Typically 64% of transfer students who applied are accepted, and 1/3 come through guaranteed admission with community colleges. 80-90% of transfers come from NOVA.

Graduate Admissions:

Last year the process was difficult with the change to central admissions and the new technology, but things have really been improved since then. Specifically the admissions liaison was able to have more say in the system development and the PDF load was changed.

Streamlining requirements across the different schools has been difficult for the admissions office and they are having trouble with dynamic requirements, but have been able to make improvements starting recently.

Application numbers are up for the Fall, but were down a bit for Spring. For the year the number of students admitted is up overall.

Committee Concerns:

We are concerned about the lack of advising resources for students. Advising as a group seems to cause issues for students and staff, particularly because some programs advising staff is not appropriately trained or supported, while others they have fulltime specific advisors.

There is also a concern over how the University promotes majors, through admissions and departments. Some of this advertising is left up to the schools but can there be equal time for smaller majors during admissions events, and are majors cannibalizing each other?

With the advent of the partnership with NOVA, the ADVANCE program, what will this look like for admissions in the different majors/Schools? There is a concern over a significant increase in transfer students, and over having enough admissions and advising staff to appropriately serve students.

The centralized admissions system is a challenge for graduate admissions within the different schools and has created a number of problems with communicating with students, reaching out to students, answering their questions etc. The committee feels strongly that the system just isn't working.