

# Faculty Senate

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## Graduate Admissions Committee

### Annual Reports 2003-2004

DATE: July 8, 2004  
 TO: Executive Committee, Faculty Senate  
 FROM: Eileen Waldschmidt, Chair (2003-2004), Graduate Admissions Committee  
 Committee members: Sunnil Khanna, Maggie Niess, Christine PingGe, and Karen White  
 SUBJECT: 2003-2004 Annual Report for the Graduate Admissions Committee  
 ATTACHMENT: [Audit Report](#) for the Graduate Admissions Committee

The Graduate Admissions Committee reviews files of Graduate School applicants who do not meet the minimum admission requirements. In the case of domestic applicants, the requirement is a grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 in the last 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours of the first undergraduate degree. For international students a similar GPA requirement applies, plus either a TOEFL score of 550 (213 on the computer version of the test) or a degree completed at an accredited institution that offers all course work in English. The committee considers other predictors of success in graduate programs including standardized test scores, letters of recommendation, and academic performance or work experience since the applicant earned a bachelor's degree. In evaluating such materials, the Committee looks for substantive and compelling evidence indicating that the applicant will succeed at the graduate level to justify waiving the admission requirements. The Graduate Admissions Committee (GAC) operates under the Standing Rules of the Faculty Senate and under the policies and procedures formulated by the Graduate Council. The GAC requested that the Faculty Senate change the GAC Standing Rules to assure that members of the committee represent different Colleges.

During the period 1 July 2003 through 30 June 2004, the Committee met 21 times on essentially an every-other-week basis (see attached copy of the Committee annual audit prepared by the Office of Admissions). The GAC considered 103 cases. Of these, 82 (80%) were domestic and 21 (20%) international. Thirty-three (32%) were admitted with no conditions, 63 (61%) were admitted with conditions, 0 (0%) were admitted provisionally, 1 (9%) was denied admission, and 6 (6%) were deferred. Departments began to establish acceptable provisions for consideration for admission, thus decreasing the need for deferrals over previous years.

The committee continued to use the following categories for action: A (accept), P (accept with departmental provisions), C (accept with condition, standard unless otherwise specified), D (defer for more information), and R (reject). The standard condition that is used is that students must earn a 3.0 (B) or better in each course of the first 18 hours of graded graduate credits. If students are rejected, they may still complete 24 hours of upper division or graduate work, earning a 3.0 or better to be accepted if the department approves the acceptance. Students who use this avenue are not reconsidered by the GAC unless they wish to petition based on less than 24 hours of completed work. As noted in last year's report, the committee had discussed whether the form used for reviewing files needed to include "provisions." The decision was to include "admit with departmental provisions". In this way, there is a way to note that the department asked for provisions. The GAC does not put provisions on an acceptance, only conditions.

The committee sent two proposals to the Executive Committee this year. One proposal sought to streamline the GAC process by allowing staff in Admissions to accept students' whose GPA was 3.8 or above. After reconsideration, the committee decided to withdraw this proposal. The second proposal was for a change in the standing rules so that selection of committee members would "ensure adequate representation of International Education." This change in the standing rules was approved by the Faculty Senate during their meeting on June 10, 2004.