

Appendix C
5-Year Annual Review
Undergraduate Admissions Committee

Faculty Senate Committee on Committees
May, 7 2009

Interviewed Jack Higginbotham, Chair 2008—2009
Submitted by Louis Bottaro, College of Liberal Arts

During the 2008-2009 academic year, the Faculty Senate Committee on Committees was charged to perform five-year reviews of several Faculty Senate committees, including the Undergraduate Admissions Committee (UAC). Using the UAC's standing rules and the last five annual reports as the basis for a conversation, Louie Bottaro, member of the Committee on Committees, arranged a discussion with Jack Higginbotham, UAC chair, to gain the chair's perspective of the effectiveness and purpose of the Faculty Senate Committee. This discussion took place May 6, 2009.

The chair confirmed that the standing rules of the UAC reflect the current function and composition of the committee. He was even able to discuss this with the current committee and the consensus was that there should be no need to alter the language as currently written. The chair agreed that the committee has been consistent with their following of the guidelines and the annual reports reflect this. No recommendations for revision to the standing rules were made.

The chair explained that the Undergraduate Admissions Committee has meetings every two weeks to review undergraduate admissions applicants who have been denied through the regular admissions process. The annual cycle works well for the committee. New members join the committee in the fall when there are less files to review. As the committee members gain confidence and competence, the applications increase. The committee liaison from Admissions is quite helpful and supportive of the committee. The Admissions office is in the process of gathering data to track students who have been admitted by the committee to determine what predictors of success have been common. The chair is eager to see the results of this data, to see if it could possibly enhance or shape future decision-making.

The chair felt that the annual reports provide a correct and accurate reflection of the issues that the committee addresses. Student members rarely participate, if at all, on this committee. Currently there is not a student member on the committee, and even when there have been students in the past, they come once or twice and that is about it.

The Undergraduate Admissions Committee adds value to the university and faculty governance by acting as a collaborative gatekeeper for the institution.

Working closely with Admissions, the Undergraduate Admissions Committee feels that the admission policies and intents are met. Like many Faculty Senate committees, additional professorial rank would enhance the committee. With a more diverse group of perspectives to draw from, the committee would have a greater reflection of the university and be a portal into the work of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee.

The Undergraduate Admissions Committee supports the University's strategic plan in its support of student success and engagement. When the committee admits a student, one of the main reasons has to do with stated support from Educational Opportunities Program, Disability Access Services, Student-Athlete Academic Services or academic colleges. This adheres to the goal of controlled growth in student enrollment at Oregon State University. The percentage of students from diverse backgrounds is higher from students that go through the Undergraduate Admissions Committee process, than the percentage of underrepresented groups that go through the main admissions process. With this information, the chair feels that the Undergraduate Admissions Committee supports Oregon State University's commitment to diversity.

Finally, the chair believes that the Undergraduate Admissions Committee absolutely adds value to the institution; it should remain in its current rules and is functioning well. This committee is part of the shared governance that is valued and necessary at Oregon State University.