

Undergraduate Admissions Committee

Annual Report 2020-2021

The 2020-2021 Undergraduate Admissions Committee was comprised of the following members: Janell Johnson (acting chair), Kali Odell (co-chair), Lisa Madsen, Dorian Smith, Rebecca Badger, Wesley Brewer, Scott Fairbanks and Brian Palmer. The Office of Admissions ex-officio member was Erin Rau.

Committee Processes

The Undergraduate Admissions Committee began the academic year reviewing appellants using a combination of OnBase and an excel spreadsheet kept in the committee Box folder. Materials such as student transcripts, the personal letter of appeal, letters of recommendation, etc. were accessible in OnBase and then committee members would cast their votes (and include reasons for denying/admitting) on the excel spreadsheet. If consensus was not reached by all members, then a meeting would be held (via Zoom). In March, the committee began using Slate to review all materials and used this new software to cast their votes on whether to admit or deny appellants. This was an intuitive program to learn, and it has made the reviewing/voting process more streamlined.

Challenges and Improvement in Operations

The committee was faced with a few challenges when it came to reviewing appeals. First, many schools during spring 2020 opted to give pass or no pass grades due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, it was difficult to gauge improvements in GPA or improvement in a particular subject area since an actual letter grade was not awarded. Second, now that OSU does not require SAT/ACT scores this is not a consistent data point among appellants, therefore it does not have as much value.

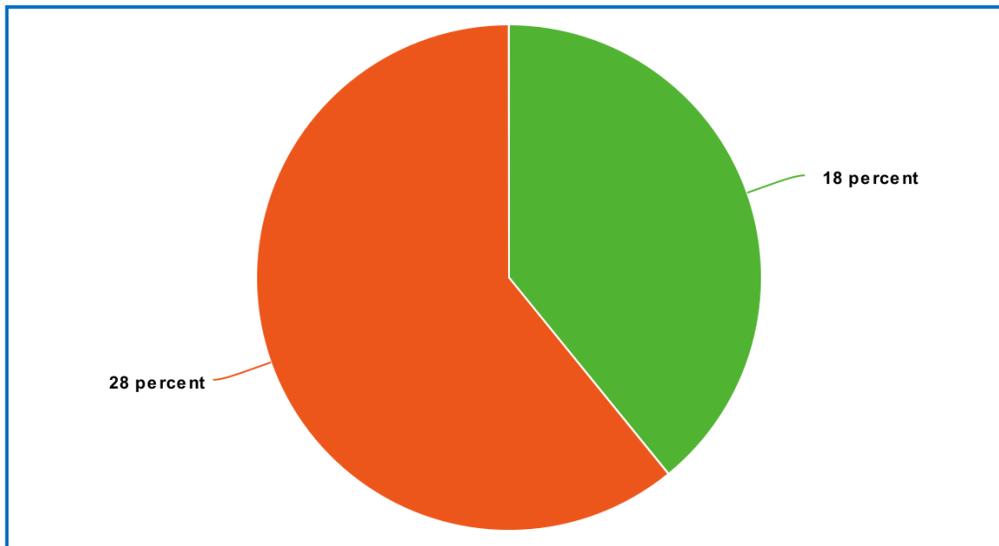
Towards the end of spring term several committee members (especially those that were newer to the committee) had concerns on how applications were being reviewed. More specifically, there was concern about which criteria (i.e., extenuating circumstances, GPA, rigor of high school coursework, letters of recommendation, etc.) should be scrutinized more thoroughly. These conversations led to one common question, "Is the student's case strong enough to overturn the initial 'deny' decision specified by the university?" The committee began drafting a 'guiding questions' document to help members reach a final decision. This document is still being revised and will continue to be worked on as a committee.

Another important idea that came about from the conversation was the committee's interest in tracking how students that are admitted by the Committee perform at OSU. It would be useful to have this follow-up data for the Committee to review for the applicants that were admitted because of the UAC consideration. I would recommend this idea is pursued by the 2021-2022 UAC.

Resolution of Cases

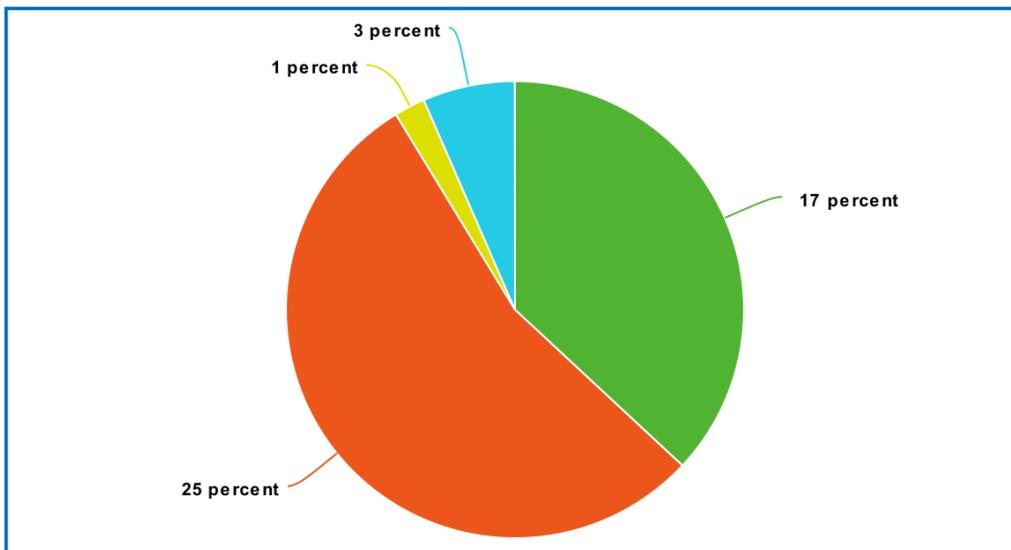
In total, 46 appeals were reviewed by the Committee. Of those, 18 were admitted and 28 were denied. This is relatively low when compared to past years. For example, 108 appeals were reviewed by the UAC during the 2017-2018 academic year. Despite this, given the COVID-19 pandemic, the 46 appeals are on par with the number of appeals that were reviewed during the 2019-2020 academic year (which was 52 appeals). Data on the appeals reviewed can be seen below.

Admission decision



■ Admitted ■ Denied

Decision by student type



■ Freshman admitted ■ Freshman denied ■ Transfer admitted ■ Transfer denied

AY 2020-2021 Membership

Janell Johnson, Co-Chair '21
Kali Odell, Co-Chair '22
Lisa Madsen '21
Dorian Smith '21
Rebecca Badger '22
(UG Advisor) '22
Wesley Brewer '23
Scott Fairbanks '23
Brian Palmer '23
TBA '23

Animal & Rangeland Sciences
School of Public Policy
Statistics
Educational Opportunities Program
Ecampus

Arts & Communication
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science
OSU-Cascades/Enrollment Services

Student Member: Terri Lee Blue (undergraduate)

Ex-Officio Member: Office of Admissions – Erin Rau

Executive Committee Liaison – Dorian Smith