

Faculty Admissions Committee
Spring Semester Meeting 2022
April 1, 2022
Hybrid In-person/Zoom Meeting

FAC members attendance in person: Fiona Liken (Registrar), Jennifer Gay (College of Public Health and FAC Chair), Margaret A. Amstutz (Interim Associate Provost and Dean), Marisa Pagnattaro (Interim Vice President for Instruction), Nancy Ferguson (Office of Student Financial Aid), and Sheila Davis (President's Office).

FAC members attendance via Zoom: Benjamin Parrott (Odum School of Ecology), Bjorn Stillion Southard (Franklin College of Arts & Sciences), Brad Davis (College of Environment & Design), Javier Boyas (School of Social Work), Jayani Jayawardhana (College of Pharmacy), , John Campbell (Terry College of Business), Robert Dove (College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences), Swarn Chatterjee (College of Family & Consumer Sciences), Trisha Tonge Barefield (University Testing Services), and Victor Wilson (Vice President for Student Affairs).

Undergraduate Admissions staff members attendance in person: Adrian Marin, Barkley Barton II, Cindy Boyles Crawford, David Graves, Melinda DeMaria, and Seth Filkins.

Dr. Jennifer Gay, FAC Chair, began the meeting at 10:00 AM by introducing Barkley Barton II, the Director of Undergraduate Admissions.

I. Welcome and Introductions – Barkley Barton II, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Barkley introduced himself and thanks everyone for attending the meeting and acknowledged the list of members of the committee, consisting of faculty across the university campus and expect to have a student representative. Several leaders of the Admissions Office are also part of the committee. He calls for the first item in the meeting's agenda, the approval of minutes.

II. Approval of Minutes – Dr. Jennifer Gay, Chair.

Dr. Gay asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Fall 2021 FAC meeting on September 2, 2021. Nancy Ferguson motioned to approve; several FAC members attending via Zoom seconded the motion. All were in favor to approve the minutes and there were no objections to the motion. There were no abstentions. The motion passes and minutes are approved. Dr. Gay reintroduced Barkley to give the 2022 Admissions Summary.

III. Admissions Summary – Barkley Barton II, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Barkley starts by stating the duties of the Faculty Admissions Committee:

- To establish policies for undergraduate admissions, with the advice and consent of the President.
- To provide recommendations concerning the admission to the University of any student not meeting minimum admission requirements, and in the case of approval to justify each such admission in writing to the Executive Committee.
- To require the President to inform in writing the Faculty Admissions Committee and the Executive Committee the reasons for not accepting a recommendation from the Faculty Admissions Committee

IV. 2021-2022 Summary – Barkley Barton II, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Barkley indicates that it has been an exciting and eventful year for the Admissions Office with many changes happening in the Admissions office. He explained that what has not changed are the targets that were presented by the university's administration and president Morehead. The admission targets are:

- 6,000 FY Students for Fall 2022
- 200+ FY Students for Spring 2023
- 2000+ Transfer students (Summer, FALL 2022, and Spring 2023)
- Maintain or increase quality indicators
- Maintain or increase diversity indicators
- An equitable, consistent and defensible process

Barkley proceeds to explain the process per application type:

Early Action

- Application deadline is October 15
- Different from last year, we opened the application on August 1, as opposed to September 1 in previous years
- Emphasis on grades, curriculum, test scores
- Holistic Review for some students on the margins of Admit/Defer and Defer/Deny
- 3 Possible Outcomes
 - Admit
 - Defer
 - Deny

Regular Decision

- Application Deadline January 1
- Emphasis on grades, curriculum, test scores
- Holistic review for all Regular Decisions applicants
- 3 Possible Outcomes
 - Admit

- Waitlist
- Deny

Barkley also provided an Admissions Year in Review, which reflects what our applicant pool looked like:

- We continued to see growth in the First-Year application pool:
 - In 2021, we received 39,400 applications
 - This year, 2022, we received 39,615 applications
 - The projection was that we would receive less application because of the return to test requirements but we saw a moderate increase
 - This growth continues to be a combination of Common Application, vendor search, admissions recruitment, and university interest
 - Most of the increase comes from Non-Georgia residents
- Accepted 16,793 total students – 42%
- Denied 18,844 students – 48%. We discourage the advertising of this number
- Waitlisted 3,080 students - 8%. Last year this number was between 1,800 and 1,900 students. This number increased because of how significantly academically stronger the applicant pool was
- Withdrawn – 2%
- Early Action we received 21,500 applications
- Regular Decision – 18,000 application
- We received more than 17,800 applications that had a 4.0 GPA or higher and 13,600 had an ACT score of 30 or higher.
- We have 153 counties represented in Georgia
- We have 49 states represented, with South Dakota missing
- Top Ten States for admits: Georgia as our number #1, Florida, North Carolina, Texas, New York, Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, New Jersey, and Maryland
- Additional data for admitted students:
 - We had close to 3,500 high schools represented
 - We had 1900 first generation students
 - 57 different countries
 - 36% students disclosed their racial/ethnic background
 - 15 admitted students are named Georgia
 - 185 admitted students are named William
 - 178 admitted students are named Emma

Barkley also offered the Fall 2022 admitted class profile:

- Middle 50% UGA Calculate GPA: 4.00 – 4.30
- Avg number of AP/IB/Dual Enrollment courses: 7 – 12
- Middle 50% on the:
 - SAT: 1350 – 1480
 - ACT 31 – 34

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro asked if the total number of applications include incomplete applications? Barkley replied that the overall number of applications include incomplete applications. About 2,300 students did not have a test score. Additionally, there were students who did not send transcripts or other supporting materials. We sent reminders and communication to those who were incomplete.

Nancy Ferguson asked, why would a student withdraw their application? Barkley replied that it is mostly because the student received a decision from a different institution. David Graves added that this happens especially for Early Decision, if the student receives a decision from a preferred institution. Melinda DeMaria explained that some institutions have binding agreement, where the student, high school counselor and the parents are obligated to withdraw applications from all other institutions, if they are admitted. David Graves clarified that the University of Georgia does not have binding decisions.

Dr. Javier Boyas asked via the Zoom chat, for students of color admitted, how many were admitted Early Action? Barkley did not readily have that Early Action versus Regular decision data, but stated that last year we had one of the largest applicant pools that we've ever had in the last 5 to 10 years of students of color; overall, there was an increase in Hispanic and Asian, but especially in African-American applicants. This year, the number of Hispanic and Africa-American applicants decreased; there were about 200 applications less from African-American students than the previous year. Barkley clarified that the admission rate of African-American students was still high; last year we admitted 1,053 students, as opposed to 1,011 this year. David Graves clarified that we don't review Early Action and Regular Decision differently; it is just a difference in the timeline.

V. Committee Discussion and Q&A

Barkley shared that Dr. Gay and he had an opportunity to discuss certain subjects prior to the meeting and he wanted to share the information with the committee.

Factors impacting applications and admissions:

- While football plays a significant role at many universities, including the University of Georgia, we believe the increase in our application pool and profile, comes from a number of different sources. Football brings attention and increases our presence in the landscape of colleges and universities; Barkley reminded the group that the national title was held on January 10th, by which time we had already received close to 40,000 applications by the January 1st deadline. Additionally, The University of Georgia did not win the national title in 2021 but we had a 39% increase in applications last year.
- Barkley mentioned Admissions added the common application last year, and that immediately puts UGA amongst our peers and aspirational peers.

- Admissions has increased the footprint when it comes to recruitment and search. We have counselors in Texas, DC and have spent significant time in the California and northeastern portion of the country.
- With all schools switching to a virtual presence during the pandemic, Admissions was able to “visit” schools that we normally could not get to in a typical year. We remain focused on the students and families of Georgia, but now we can go into other areas around the country/globe to make sure the UGA name and brand has a reach.
- Barkley mentioned the High School Advisory Committee, which is a group of counselors who provide us insight on what we are doing and what our peers/competitors are doing across the country. (We will be hosting this group on campus from April 20-22.)
- Barkley stated that the football impact could play a role in the confirmation phase and we may see some increase in the application pool in future years. We will wait and see.

Sheila Davis asked, do you foresee any football impact on the current yield? Barkley indicated that yield is where we are seeing some impact. Currently, we are 100 to 200 above in commitments from previous years. Barkley added that he still believes this is more related to the hard work and the image of the institution (who we are). David Graves added that the institutions that we lose more admitted students to is Georgia Tech, which is not a strong football school. So, while football plays a part, academics, cost, and location makes a bigger difference.

Dr. Jennifer Gay said that, based on the Admissions goal of a class of 6000 students, how does that reconcile with the small class size initiative? Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro replied saying, hire more faculty; small class size and student-faculty ratio. Dr. Gay asked if there are plans to hire more tenure-track or clinical instructor level faculty? Dr. Pagnattaro replied that we currently have the Interdisciplinary Faculty Hiring Initiative, which is a two-year initiative; she added that the plan is also to look at the enrollment going forward and make decisions based on what makes the most sense. Hiring will be a combination of both approaches. Barkley added that the 6000 class size goal has been set by the administration for, at least, the next two cycles, so this is something he is sure is being considered.

Faculty & Legacy Admissions

- Barkley mentioned that The University of Georgia does not have a special admissions process for Faculty or Legacy students. During the admissions process, we do monitor all students of current or former faculty members. We send out a letter notifying faculty and staff members that we noticed that their son or daughter has applied for admissions; we do this as a courtesy and to give them the opportunity to communicate with a staff member if they have a

question. We do keep the university's administration aware of these applications especially if the decision would be negative. This process does not change the admission decision.

- In relation to legacy admissions, Barkley pointed out a piece of information in the FAQ and Myth page and Dave's Blog:
 - My parent(s) graduated from UGA. Does that have an impact on my decision? Legacy does not have an impact on an admission decision, and neither does your gender, ethnicity, high school/county, state, or eye color. There are always a number of rumors that are associated with college admissions, most of which are false, so I suggest you ask on the blog if you hear about a rumor.

David Graves, circled back to the data that Barkley did not readily have available regarding the number of African-American students who were admitted in Early Action. He indicated that out of the 1,011 African-American admitted students, roughly 65% were admitted in Early Action. Early Action had a larger group, close to 55% of the total admits.

Transfer Admissions

David explained that, unlike the first-year process where we are looking for a specific admission rate/number, in the transfer admission process we monitor how many people applied, the circumstances in previous years, and we come to an understanding of what the consideration level is for the current applicant pool. This process is important in case we have too many applicants. Depending on these numbers, we might have to make tough decisions. At the moment, the minimum requirements are:

- 60 credits or more require a 2.8 GPA or higher.
- Students between 30-59 credit hours, the requirement is 3.3 GPA or higher.

David indicated that we have not had to make any declines for any large group of students that didn't meet that since 2011. We have made increases in some of the considerations, at times. At one point, the GPA requirement was a 2.5 for junior or higher students, or 2.8 for sophomores. We have not done any changes for about four years when we increased the GPA from 3.2 to a 3.3, for those 30-59 credit students. We monitor those numbers constantly. Last year, in the fall:

- We had 3,200+ applicants
- We admitted about 2,400 students
- We enrolled 1,750 in summer and fall
- We also enrolled 1,060 students in the Spring

David explained that sometimes we shift some students from fall to spring because of capacity; however, numbers level out with over 2,000 of students graduating in

December, so we ensure don't have a massive decrease in Spring enrollment. We planned this timeline ahead of time. David added that transfer admissions are stable at the moment and explained that we have an ending waitlist group, also known as the Transfer Pathway program, in which we reserve about 350 spots for students who we are unable to admit in the Spring or Fall. These are generally Georgia students who are given the opportunity to use their Spring grades to enroll them in the Fall, instead of making them wait a year and a half. This group may be bigger in the coming years. We also work with academic departments who would like to work with a few specific students. This is basically a softer denial process who are academically stronger and who we'd like to see enroll in the near future. Additionally, this helps with representation within the state. In terms of the bigger picture, in a few years we will likely review the admission consideration requirements if we see an increase in transfer applications. We have not had an issue with the size of the applicant pool, but the first-year enrollment goal has played a role in this as well.

Barkley added that this has been a significant conversation; it was in 2017-2018 when we made a change in the admissions requirements. We are currently not seeing a significant increase in applications that would prompt us to consider changing the current requirements. We will curve that decision only when the application numbers increase.

David indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic had an impact in transfer applications. Students were more likely to stay closer to home or had family or financial issues. Though the transfer applications are stable, that could change next year. We don't release our transfer decisions until we have received all of the applications; this way, we can monitor these numbers and take action if there is a significant amount of applications.

Fiona Liken asked: are you saying that you would admit all students that meet the criteria?

David replied that, with a few exceptions, that is correct. One example of an exception would be a student who meets the criteria, but the last semester at the other institution the student had a 1.5 GPA. This way, we have some flexibility. Something worth mentioning is that we do not round up. If a student with 30 credits has a 3.29 GPA, the student does not meet the criteria.

Fiona Liken also asked: how many hours are you using for the Transfer Pathway?

David replied that the same criteria applies. They would still need to have at least 30 hours of transferrable credit completed, but the difference is that we extend the deadline for their transcript, so they would be able to transfer one semester earlier where most students would have to wait an additional semester. Out of the 350 students that were offered this option, about 80% or 90% would apply.

Barkley mentioned that this is information that should not be publicly advertised because we review these on a case-by-case basis.

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro asked: is the transfer GPA based on the transferrable credit hours or is it also based on the high school transcript?

David replied that we do not use high school work in a transfer application. We will use the cumulative GPA on the multiple college transcripts. We will also use Dual Enrollment because that is college work. Additionally, because we are part of the University System of Georgia, we will use credits that were given by other USG institutions.

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro also asked: is there any weight added to the GPA?

David replied that we add weight. We will use whatever is reflected on the transcript and what we have grades for.

Test-optional for Fall 2022

We wanted to share a recent announcement by USG:

Effective today, March 18, 2022, institutions (excluding Georgia College & State University, Georgia Institute of Technology, and University of Georgia) may use the following two options to make admission decisions for applicants for fall 2022:

- 1. Existing freshman index (no changes)*
- 2. Test-optional with the following minimum high school grade point average on the Required High School Curriculum (RHSC) by sector:*

Sector	Minimum Test-Optional High School Grade Point Average (RHSC)
<i>Research Universities</i>	<i>3.4</i>
<i>Comprehensive Universities</i>	<i>3.2</i>
<i>State Universities</i>	<i>3.0</i>

The test optional path is not available for dual enrollment. Students applying for dual enrollment must still meet existing admissions requirements.

Barkley pointed out that UGA, GA Tech and Georgia College were excluded from this update. This is due to our use of the holistic admission process. How this might impact us, we do not know. We were unable to make decisions on about 2300 students due to a missing test score. Mostly Non-Georgia residents. We are seeing many of our peer institutions working on a year to year or 3-year research test optional policy. We have not seen any indication that this will change in the year 2023.

Nancy Ferguson mentioned that, for Zell Miller scholarship, the state still requires the minimum test scores and that is not even in consideration to change. While test scores might not be considered for admission, but they would still need to take a test to be considered for the scholarship. This is part of the law, so it is not something that can be easily changed and would require a change in the legislation.

VI. Task Force Assignments – Cindy Boyles Crawford

Cindy shared the opportunity for committee members to participate in the subcommittees within the Faculty Admissions Committee. We invite you to sign up for one of the subcommittees. Cindy explained that the first three subcommittees (first-year, transfer and special populations) are groups that we need available, in case to discuss any changes in policies. Cindy broke down each category:

1. First-Year admissions – Primarily oversees the criteria used in the admissions process for applicants applying from high school.
2. Transfer admissions – Oversees the criteria used in the transfer application process for students that have previously attended other institutions.
3. Special Populations admissions – Oversees criteria for applicants not included in the above two categories. This includes dual enrollment applicants and post-baccalaureate applicants.
4. Appeals: members of this subcommittee meet several times through the year and in special situations when a student is asking that the application is formally reviewed by the university and the president. Thanks to all the members who continue to support this process. We have a new appeals portal where we post the appeal information and then members of the committee can vote their recommendations.

https://outlookuga-my.sharepoint.com/:x/g/person/ryan197_uga_edu/ER2VfBz1RbtKr7fcKLPKiZsBe1XeBdv5kGR-EwTGilOow?rttime=0WKoztlQ2Eg

The Task Force volunteers sign up are as follows:

First Year Task Force	Transfer Task Force	Special Populations Task Force	Appeals Review
Bjørn Stillion Southard	Ben Parrott	Jennie Gay	Jennie Gay
John Campbell	Robert Dove	Jayani Jayawardhana	Jennifer Lindstrom
		Javier F. Boyas	Robert Dove
		Nancy Ferguson	John Campbell
		Jonathan Peters	Bjørn Stillion Southard
			Jayani Jayawardhana

Cindy explained that Adrian and the IT team has built a new portal to manage appeals and complete the review online, via Slate. We wanted to make this process as easy as possible for everyone involved. Cindy also thanked those who has helped in that capacity.

Dr. Jennifer Gay encouraged to all to sign up to at least one of the task forces (first-year, transfer and special populations) and as many people as possible to sign up to the appeals review. Even though some of the groups that need review are small and don't require a lot of time, it can be hard to get three committee members to do the review, so the more people we have in the pool to do these reviews, the more helpful it is. If you are already doing appeals reviews, your support to the Admission staff it is greatly appreciated. It is one of the most important things that members of this committee do, so please continue to do so.

Barkley added that we are in the midst of our appeal season. The first-year appeals start in May, so your support in getting this review is important so we can send them to the administration and have a decision for these appeals quickly.

Dr. Gay also explained that this process is a great way to learn more about the appeals process and how these decisions are made.

Election of the Committee Chair

Dr. Jennifer Gay explain the need to elect a new committee chair and, even though she would like to serve in this capacity again, she is rolling off the committee altogether after her second term. We did not receive any nominations as of yesterday afternoon, so we will need to remain in session until a new chair is elected. We could have either a volunteer or nominate someone else for the role.

Dr. John Campbell indicated via the Zoom chat that he was willing to do it if no one else wanted to. Dr. Bjørn Stillion Southard self-nominated.

Dr. Jennifer Gay asked: "all in favor of Bjørn being the chair for next year, raise your hand on Zoom or in the room". She indicated that the vote takes place alphabetically, Bjorn went first. Then she asked "all in favor of John" (tacitly asking for a vote). She indicated that by show of hands, it looked like Bjørn was elected as chair of the committee. She indicated to Dr. Southard that she is happy to discuss with him about the duties of the role.

Barkley thanked Dr. Jennifer Gay for her service, not only this past year, but for all six years she served in the committee. Barkley added that he wants to thank to all the committee members who are leaving the committee after this semester. Thank you for your time and presence.

Dr. Jennifer Gay also recognized Dr. Robert Dove for serving as committee chair several times.

Dr. Gay asked if there were additional comments or questions.

Dr. Marisa Pagnattaro, being new to her role, thanked Barkley and the Admissions team for all the work they have done. She recognized that there has been a lot happening in the Spring. Also thanked them for addressing all her questions.

Adjourn

Dr. Gay, at 10:56, asked if there was a motion to adjourn. The motioned was moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Adrian Marin

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