

Senate Enrollment Committee
Minutes
Oct. 30, 2014, Noon-1:30 p.m.

Members Present: Dianne Beer, Nathan Fuerst, Eva Gorbants, Veronica Makowsky, Deborah McDonald, Mansour Ndieye, Zeki Simsek, Susana Ulloa, Maureen Croteau, chair

Speaker: Nathan Fuerst, director of admissions

1. Minutes of the Sept. 18, 2014, meeting were accepted.
2. Nathan Fuerst updated the committee on the fall 2014 admissions process:

The target was 6,025 new students, which turned out to be exactly the number enrolled at the final count.

A significant change this year was the admission of international students to the Stamford (30 students) and Avery Point (10 students) regional campuses. He said that so far the students appear to be enjoying the regional campuses, but no decision will be made on whether to continue to admit international students to those campuses until grades are reviewed in the spring.

Admission of international students increased significantly on the Storrs campus. The target was 240. Four more than that were admitted. This compares with 141 last year and 182 the year before. He said that “we can easily enroll more” international students, but maintaining geographic diversity is difficult. More than two-thirds of the applications come from students in China, even though we do not recruit there. China simply has a huge number of outstanding students seeking international educations. We do recruit in other parts of Asia, Turkey and South America, to attempt to achieve geographic diversity.

He said that he expects next year’s overall target to be approximately 6,000, like this year.

Domestically, he said that admissions from New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts have been emphasized in recruiting and have grown.

He said that UConn is one of the few schools that does not have an early action deadline, which he says school counselors appreciate. Our acceptance date is March 1 for nearly everyone. (Students in the two-year Ratcliffe Hicks program and those who must audition or submit portfolios often hear earlier than March 1.)

Having two fall open houses this year was successful. The combined attendance – 4000 – was easily the largest number we have ever had. About 80 percent of the students who attend an open house apply. He wants to have two open houses again next year.

Although some colleges have made SAT’s or ACT’s optional, he does not see UConn doing that any time soon. He said that students are judged “holistically,” not just on standardized test scores. His staff looks at “cognitive” areas – grades, test scores, etc. – and “non-cognitive” areas such as recommendations, essay and activities. There is a rubric for rating each area. They are looking for a balanced resume that shows a student’s academic ability to succeed as well as his or her capacity for leadership, participation in outside activities, etc.

To reach out to students in the STEM areas, his office bought the national list of students who took AP science tests. They sent a letter to each of them.

Submitted by Maureen Croteau, chair