

UNIVERSITY SENATE ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

Annual Report 1979-1980

I. Members of the Admissions Committee:

Mss. Mary Clor, Indra David, Anne Federlein (Winter 1980), Cindy Linda, Margaret Pigott, Gladys Rapoport, Janice Wilkerson-Smith (for Manuel Pierson); Messrs. Harvey Arnold, Bruce Babcock, Mark Clausen, Carlo Coppola (Chair), Isaac Eliezer, Robert Goldstein (Fall 1979), Jerry Rose, Patrick Strauss, Jack Wilson.

II. Charge of the Admissions Committee:

To consider, recommend, and evaluate recruiting policies and standards and requirements for admission to undergraduate programs of the University and to evaluate such individual applications for admission as may be referred to it by the Director of Admissions.

III. Admissions Committee Activities:

During 1979-1980 the Admissions Committee addressed itself to individual admissions problems brought to its attention by particular departments and to investigating the ways in which a number of departments informally recruit students for Oakland University.

Professor Raynold Allvin brought before the committee a problem unique to the Department of Music. Because musicians must devote a great deal of time to practicing their instrument, they sometimes do not achieve well in their academic subjects in high school. Subjects such as music are not, as a rule, figured into a student's grade point average when he applies to be admitted at Oakland University. As a result, Professor Allvin contended, a number of extraordinarily proficient music students do not meet Oakland University's 2.5 GPA minimum and cannot be admitted to the university. Professor Allvin asked that the Admissions Committee set forth some basic criteria whereby to judge these exceptional cases. In consultation with Jerry Rose, Director of Admissions, Laszlo Hetenyi, Dean of the School of Performing Arts, and Professor Allvin, the Admissions Committee recommended that the music grades of such music students be given due consideration in computing their GPA for admission to Oakland University. In addition, the committee urged that all such special cases be referred to a Performing Arts Admissions Subcommittee consisting of Messrs. Rose, Hetenyi, and Allvin, in addition to two (2) members of the Admissions Committee, one faculty member and one student. Membership of the two "floating" positions would be rotated yearly among various Admission Committee members.

In addition, the Admissions Committee met with two chairpersons of departments and with the newly-appointed Director of Alumni Relations, Mr. Ronald Barr, as part of what will hopefully be an on-going plan to investigate various informal ways in which such groups recruit students for admission to Oakland University. As a first step in this process, Jerry Rose

gave a full description of the standard recruitment methods used by his office. By way of follow-up, Professor Paul Tombouliau, chairperson of the Department of Chemistry, discussed ways in which his department brought prospective students to campus for various meetings and planned activities. He also discussed how members of his department are invited to area high schools to present lectures and act as consultants for science fairs, etc.

Professor Jack Moeller, chairperson of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, reported on the annual Foreign Language Festival, sponsored by his department, which brings as many as 1,200 to 1,500 students to campus in the spring for a day of activities. Professor Moeller pointed out that very few of these students major in modern languages and that, indeed, this recruitment device is not one specifically designed to interest students in careers in modern languages, but to expose students to our campus and to interact with other students in a university setting.

Mr. Ronald Barr stated that, at present, the Alumni Office does not have any formal or informal methods for recruiting students. However, he pointed out that alumni are among the best recruiters for any university and that over the next year or so he hopes to organize groups of alumni to assist in the recruitment process.

The Admissions Committee felt that the existence and success of such informal recruitment activities on the part of departments should be given wider acknowledgment throughout the university. In addition, such activities should be closely coordinated by the Admissions Office. The 1979-1980 Admissions Committee agreed that future Admissions Committees should continue to review these various informal efforts throughout the university.

IV. Suggested Agendas for Next Year's Committee:

A number of members suggested other areas to which the committee should turn its attention next year. One member stated that the Admissions Committee should undertake a comprehensive public review of the entire admissions process in order to determine what is positive and productive in the process as it now stands, and what is needed to improve it. Another member asked that the committee investigate all aspects of the current registration process in an attempt to streamline it. It was also suggested that the Admissions Committee study ways in which foreign students might be recruited for the university, especially among newly-arrived immigrants in the various ethnic communities in the area.

These are all excellent suggestions and point to both general and specific questions to which next year's committee can address itself.

I wish to offer my sincere thanks to all members of the committee for serving faithfully and well during this past year. The progress this committee has made is significant and the momentum generated suggests that the group will make an even larger contribution to the university next year.

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cc: Mss. M. Clor, I. David, A. Federlein, C. Linda, M. Pigott, G. Rapoport, J. Wilkerson-Smith; Messrs. H. Arnold, B. Babcock, M. Clausen, I. Eliezer, R. Goldstein, J. Rose, P. Strauss, J. Wilson.