

To: The University Senate
From: University Senate Educational Policy Committee
Subject: Undergraduate Admissions Policy
Disposition: University Senate for Information and Endorsement

Purdue University-West Lafayette
Rationale for Admissions Policy

A number of factors and requests for clarification and statements have led to the evolution of undergraduate admissions practices over the past decade. These statements and clarifications have been contained in multiple documents and are neither transparent nor widely available to interested and important parties (e.g. faculty, deans, trustees). As Purdue admission has become increasingly competitive and selective, coupled with national attention to admissions practices, it is important to collect and codify the Purdue admissions practices into a policy format.

Below are the events and activities over the past decade that have informed Purdue admissions practice and the contents of this draft policy:

- 1) The Michigan Supreme Court decision legally affirmed the value of holistic admissions review. Purdue has practiced holistic admission for a number of years and published for prospective students the list of factors used. However, these factors are not currently in any University policy. Purdue plans to apply for membership in the Common Application soon and a criterion for membership is a commitment to holistic review.
- 2) A need to align Purdue's minimum high school curriculum expectations with Indiana Core 40 and research regarding effects of rigor of high school curricula with college success led to re-evaluation of HS curriculum requirements for each college. Although it has been the practice for the colleges to establish their minimum expectations for freshman and transfer admission, not all colleges have that responsibility codified in their by-laws. This policy clarifies responsibility for these minimum expectations.
- 3) Because it is faculty who set these minimum expectations, the Provost and the President have requested that a special admissions committee composed of faculty review some cases where students have not met the expectations.
- 4) Following the University of Illinois admissions scandal of several years ago that involved political influence on admissions decisions, then-Provost Woodson asked for a statement that clarified Purdue's prohibition of third-party influence on admissions decisions and protection of the privacy of applicants. The tenets of that statement are embedded in the draft policy.
- 5) There has been no public statement of who has the authority to make admissions decisions; this policy clarifies that it is the responsibility of the Admissions Committee under the direction of the Dean of Admissions, further protecting the University from the appearance of third-party influence.
- 6) Many of our peers, including the Universities of California, Illinois and Michigan, have published admissions policies.
- 7) Undergraduate admission is a highly visible activity among both internal and external stakeholders. To maintain integrity and consistency as well as provide transparency and

clarity, it is prudent for the University to have its practices and statements in a published policy.

Whereas: The Purdue University Senate Educational Policy Committee has studied and discussed the creation of an Undergraduate Admissions Policy

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The Purdue University Senate Educational Policy Committee endorsed the creation of an Undergraduate Admissions Policy by Purdue West Lafayette and brings this endorsement forward for discussion and endorsement by the Purdue University Senate.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Purdue University Senate Educational Policy Committee,

Teri Reed-Rhoads
Chair, Educational Policy Committee
Purdue University Senate

Approving:

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Absent:

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