To: The University Senate
From: University Senate Student Affairs Committee
University Senate Equity and Diversity Committee
Subject: Standardized Tests and Undergraduate Admissions
Reference: Freshman Admission Criteria:
https://www.admissions.purdue.edu/apply/criteriafreshmen.php
https://www.admissions.purdue.edu/faq/index.php
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption
Proposal: Temporary continuation of Purdue University’s “test flexible” approach for undergraduate admissions until fall 2022.

Rationale: Purdue University recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated recognized access inequities and restrictions to national standardized tests (e.g., SAT and ACT) that may impact prospective students’ applications. An increasing number of colleges and universities no longer require submission of SAT or ACT scores by undergraduate applicants, because performance on ACT and SAT tests has substantial limitations as an independent predictor of academic success in college, and applicants who are economically advantaged have disproportionate access to standardized-test preparation resources. During the current pandemic there have been difficulties in registering for and taking standardized tests and the obstacles more often affect applicants from socioeconomically disadvantaged communities.

To mitigate these negative impacts the Purdue University Office of Admissions created a “test flexible” process.

Across the University there are differing evaluations of the functions that standardized test scores fulfill. For example, some units require SAT and ACT tests to evaluate applicants’ academic capability and success, and others report scores for accreditation. On the other hand, some units do not prioritize standardized test scores for admission as they do not predict their students’ future academic success.
Proposed Action: The University Senate welcomes the decision of the Purdue University Office of Admissions to continue the current “test flexible” criteria for admission to the undergraduate program at Purdue University - West Lafayette through at least Fall 2022.

Additionally, the University Senate requests that academic units actively communicate with their respective Colleges to design and provide detailed individualized criteria for applicant admissions, including their degree of priority placed on standardized test results.

This tailored approach to standardized test scores and other admissions requirements acknowledges the broad diversity in applicants’ academic potential based on specific units’ needs.

The University Senate and the Purdue University Office of Admissions pledge to cooperate in using the admissions data obtained under the “test flexible” policy, to evaluate the role of standardized tests in undergraduate admissions and the impact of the policy on the Purdue academic community.
Student Affairs Committee Votes:

**Faculty**
- For: Chitta Das, Paul Robinson, David Sanders, Rusi Taleyarkhan, Jane Yatcilla
- Against:  
- Abstained:  

**Students**
- For: Alex Reed, Amanda Shie, Veronica Reynolds, Ralph Rivera
- Against:  
- Abstained:  

**Advisors**
- For: Heather Beasley, Beth McCuskey, Tom Atkinson
- Against:  
- Abstained:  

Equity and Diversity Committee Votes:

**Faculty**
- For: Bharat Bhargava, Ximena Bernal, Neil Knobloch, Rodolfo Pinal, Mandy Rispoli, Audrey Ruple, Kevin Stainback, Susan Watts, Kipling Williams
- Against: Peter Bermel, Klod Kokini, Terrence Meyer, Sandra Rossie
- Abstained:  

**Students**
- For: Val Schull
- Against: Sammy Bonnet, Alex Griffin-Little
- Abstained:  

**Advisors**
- For: Lowell Kane
- Against: De Bush, Alysa Rollock
- Abstained:  