

FACULTY ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 1984-85

During the 1984-85 academic year, the following people served on the Admissions Committee:

Elected by the Faculty:

Whitfield Ayres, Government and International Studies
 Eleanor Delpo, Nursing
 Paula Feldman, English
 Gary Griepentrog, Business Administration
 Roger Sawyer, Biology

Appointed by the President:

Daniel Berman, Applied Professional Sciences
 Lloyd Brown, Journalism
 James Burns, Applied Professional Sciences
 Jerry Curry, Music, Chairman
 Judith Rink, Physical Education

Ex Officio:

Deborah Haynes, Acting Director of Admissions

The primary issue facing the admissions committee this year was the unexpected increase in applications for admission for the 1985-86 academic year. Reasons cited for the rise in applications were good publicity through various programs (i.e., the Caribbean Conference, President Reagan's visits, the football season, etc.) plus additional funding which allowed the Office of Admissions to increase recruiting activities this year. This led to an exceptional step, that of closing admissions for new freshman. On March 29, the committee voted to close admissions to all but highly qualified applicants for the fall 1985 freshman class.

In addition, in response to a recommendation by President Holderman, the committee voted on May 8 to implement an early, selective admissions policy for fall 1986 freshman class. This policy will allow admission on December 1 of students predicting a freshman grade point average of 3.0 or higher. On March 1, the predicted grade point average will be determined to admit a freshman class of 2,500 students, excepting provisional year students. Provisional year students, numbering 250, will then be admitted from applicants whose predicted grade point average falls within .25 below the gpa for baccalaureate students.

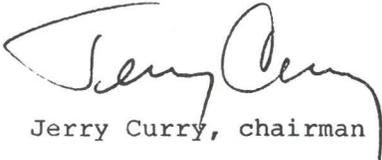
Some time was spent discussing college autonomy and admissions requirements as opposed to standard university admissions requirements set by the Faculty Admission Committee. While concern with problems created by the conditional year policy are recognized, the committee generally feels that the current situation is preferable to one in which the universal admissions requirement for the Columbia campus is threatened. It is hoped that a higher standard of admissions resulting from increased

applications will lower the number of students in the conditional year category.

The committee studied the questions concerning admission formulated by the Lightsey commission. In general, the committee feels there is little need for change in admissions policies. The committee did send a recommendation to the commission to consider formally establishing a second admissions category for two-year campuses, one which admits students which do not meet the requirements for Columbia campus admission. Such students would be informed of the conditions of their admission; to wit, that, in order to transfer to any other USC campus, the student must complete 30 semester hours, with a grade point ratio at the end of the 30 hours which meets or exceeds the minimum standards for the Columbia campus.

Some time was also spent discussing the 1988 high school curriculum requirements. The Office of Admissions is working in conjunction with Computer Services Division to develop a computer program to track high school courses taken by applicants. There appears to be some conflict between the CHE brochure describing the requirements and those listed in our catalog. It was confirmed that admission requirements are set by the university, specifically by the faculty through the Faculty Senate and Admissions Committee, and that high school students should be advised to take courses as required by our catalog where there is any difference from the CHE brochure.

Submitted June 10, 1985



Jerry Curry, chairman