



## **Senate Committee on Academic Development**

Report to Senate - Meeting of March 31, 2005

### **Proposal to change the minimum admission average to 75% for undergraduate programs.**

#### **Introduction**

The proposal to change the overall minimum admission average to 75% for undergraduate applicants to Queen's University was reviewed by the Senate Committee on Academic Development at its meeting on March 9, 2005. Jo-Anne Brady, University Registrar spoke to the proposal and answered questions from members of SCAD. A copy of the memo to SCAD outlining the proposed change is attached to this report.

#### **Analysis and Discussion**

The following should be noted:

- the university-wide minimum admission average for direct-entry undergraduate programs is currently 70%;
- Faculties/ Schools were consulted and unanimously support maintaining a university-wide minimum 75% admission standard;
- the change clarifies the criteria for applicants seeking admission and is consistent with the current practice for conditional offers;
- the standard will not prevent admission, which is determined at the unit level, of exceptional students with extenuating circumstances;
- the change more accurately reflects the current demand and calibre of students applying for admission to Queen's.

#### **Conclusions/Recommendation**

Recommendation:

that Senate approve the minimum admission average of 75% for all undergraduate programs for publication in 2005-2006 calendars.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne Fortier  
Chair, Senate Committee on Academic Development

**Committee Members:**

M. Bourbonniere  
C. Jones  
I. Munro  
K. Nakatsu  
P. Oosthuizen  
G. Sawyer  
L. Snider  
M. Stott  
A. Szulewski

## MEMO

TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD)

FROM: Jo-Anne Brady, University Registrar

DATE: March 2, 2005

SUBJECT: Change in minimum undergraduate admission average for  
Queen's University

I am writing to recommend that the Senate Committee on Academic Development (SCAD) consider a change in the overall minimum admission average for undergraduate applicants to Queen's University. The University has in the past maintained a minimum admission average that is University-wide and consistent across all direct-entry undergraduate programs. The published minimum is now 70%, and it is recommended that it be raised to 75%.

In February 2005, I solicited input from all Faculties/Schools that offer direct-entry programs, asking them two questions:

- 1) Would your Faculty/School support an increase in the minimum admission average for full-time and part-time admission from 70% to 75%?
- 2) If your answer is no, would your Faculty/School approve of multiple minimum admission averages for undergraduate direct-entry programs?

The answer from all Faculties/Schools to the first question was yes, and there was consensus on the second question that University-wide minimum admission standards should be maintained.

This change reflects both the increasing competition for and complexity of admission to the University. It also seeks to clarify the criteria for applicants seeking admission. No students have been admitted in the past decade with an average lower than 75% and this change will more accurately reflect the current demand and caliber of students applying for admission to Queen's. Further, it provides greater transparency to prospective applicants about the requirements for admission to Queen's undergraduate programs. Finally, the change is consistent with current practice for conditional offers, whereby students must achieve a minimum average of 75% on their final grades (80% in Commerce) in order to fulfil the offer condition and maintain their admission.

The Faculty of Arts and Science has already adopted the change, which was passed by their Faculty Board in February 2004.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Jo-Anne Brady  
University Registrar