

## **Faculty Senate Resolution 06-06**

### **Enhancement of LSU Admission Standards**

**Presented to the LSU Faculty Senate April 18, 2006 by Andrew Christie on behalf of the Faculty Senate Committee on Admissions, Standards, and Honors**

*Whereas*, it is LSU's responsibility as Louisiana's flagship university to provide nationally competitive undergraduate programs and experiences for its students, and

*Whereas*, LSU has steadily raised its admission requirements six times during the last 18 years (three times during the last six years), thus raising expectations for undergraduate preparation and performance which leads to a stronger student body, and

*Whereas*, one of the actions included in LSU's National Flagship Agenda is to increase undergraduate admission standards and to move to a more competitive and holistic admission model that will provide more flexibility for LSU to recruit and retain top students, and

*Whereas*, a review of admission models at national peer institutions showed LSU as the only institution with specifically stated 'automatic' admission requirements, and

*Whereas*, standards could be more reasonably applied by maintaining the same minimum expectations for consideration (22 ACT and 3.0 GPA on the LSU Core) while leaving the size and makeup of the admitted class subject to the needs of the University. An example of the admission model, for Fall 2007, would be:

LSU will consider the total high school record: rigor of courses completed, grades, test scores, educational objectives, and experiences. For instance, completion of AP (Advanced Placement) or IB (International Baccalaureate) courses will be considered along with school leadership and breadth of experiences in and out of the classroom. Applicants should have completed the 18 units of college-preparatory high school courses as outlined in the LSU Core. Students must be eligible to enroll in university-level English and mathematics courses, as evidenced by a minimum SAT Verbal score of 450 (ACT English subscore of 18) and a minimum SAT Math score of 440 (ACT Math subscore of 18). Preference for admission to LSU will be given to those students whose credentials indicate the greatest promise of academic success and the greatest potential for contributing to the diverse missions of the University. There is no guaranteed criterion of grades and test scores for automatic admission, but applicants should have at least a 3.0 academic GPA or a 1130 Math + Verbal SAT score (25 ACT composite score).

Admission decisions are based on both the strength of the applicant pool and the needs and capacity of the University. As an advisory, the fall entering class of 2005 had an average ACT of 25.2, over 74% had a high school GPA of at least 3.25, and 86% met the 18-unit high school requirement.

Such a description would provide needed flexibility to craft an entering class by such factors as anticipated major, academic strengths, talents, and diversity elements, depending on the needs, goals and capacities of the University.

*Therefore, be it resolved* that the criteria for freshman admission be revised toward a more holistic admissions model for students entering LSU in the Fall of 2007, with actual catalog text adjusted each

year to reflect the makeup of the previous entering class. Institutional emphases and expectations will be determined by the Faculty, through the Faculty Senate or its representatives, and the Provost and Chancellor.