The Admissions and Records Policy Committee recommends that the University establish a deadline for new freshman applications. The recommended deadline is June 30 for the fall term, and November 15 for the spring term, with admission deadlines (date in which applications would have to be complete and acted upon) of July 31 and November 30, respectively. This policy would be effective beginning June 30, 1987. An appropriate appeal mechanism is to be established by the Office of the Registrar, with input from the academic units and special program offices. The policy shall be reviewed by the Senate at its May 1989 meeting.

Background

Currently the University does not have an undergraduate application deadline. New freshmen can apply for admission as late as the second week of classes. After studying student retention, the Minority Affairs Administrative Committee recommended the application deadlines to the Office of the Registrar Advisory Committee (ORAC) early in 1986. On March 6, the ORAC approved the recommendation and these specific deadlines.

Rationale

New freshmen who apply early and take advantage of the orientation and advising services have a much better chance of being retained at the University. The Mickelson/Griskey study provided the following information about the retention rate of early (admitted by August 1) as opposed to late (admitted after August 1) freshman admits.

Early admits in the upper 50 percentile of their graduating class had a 65.8% retention rate, as compared to 39.8% for late admits. The gap for freshmen ranking in the lower one-half of their graduating classes was more than 15%. Grade point averages for early admits exceeded those for late admits by .20 to .35 grade points. The data clearly showed that while minority students make up a disproportionately larger share of late admits, the likelihood of cancellation, poor achievement, and non-retention is also higher for the late admit minority students.

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