

# ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

## COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIALS

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Future Priorities Sullivan**

- PUBLIC SESSION
- EXECUTIVE SESSION

PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE:

- Yes
- No

FOR FULL BOARD CONSIDERATION:

- Yes

*[Note: If yes, materials will also be included in the full UW Board of Trustee report.]*

- No

*Attachments/materials are provided in advance of the meeting.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

We will discuss how Academic Affairs and Student Affairs will continue to build and strengthen our partnerships focused upon student success efforts. This will include **a review of President Seidel's strategic priorities; discussion of where UW is well positioned for excellence;** current and planned efforts around partnership in tutoring, holistic academic advising, student belonging, and wellbeing and health.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

To discuss the committee's strategic focus for the coming academic year.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS COMMITTEE MEETING:

NA

PROPOSED MOTION:

NA

# ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

## COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIALS

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ACT/SAT Test Optional Consideration Moore**

- PUBLIC SESSION
- EXECUTIVE SESSION

PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE:

- Yes
- No

FOR FULL BOARD CONSIDERATION:

- Yes

*[Note: If yes, materials will also be included in the full UW Board of Trustee report.]*

- No

*Attachments/materials are provided in advance of the meeting.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

ACT/SAT test availability has been significantly impacted due to COVID-19. This lack of ability to test has resulted in many students unable to provide the test scores required for admission to higher education institutions. UW is suggesting a consideration be made for offering Test Optional Admissions for upcoming 2021/2022 terms.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

Information item for committee.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS COMMITTEE MEETING:

Requesting approval to offer Test Optional Admission into UW for the 2021/2022AY.

PROPOSED MOTION:

I move to authorize administration to allow for students to choose a Test Optional consideration for admission to the University of Wyoming for the 2021/2022 academic year.

DATE: July 22, 2020  
TO: Kyle Moore  
FROM: Shelley Dodd  
Debra Hintz  
RE: Proposal for UW to be ACT/SAT Test Optional for Admissions and Scholarships

Issue:

Rising seniors across the country who will graduate spring 2021 are having a difficult time finding an available ACT/SAT exam date. Due to COVID, there are fewer spots available because of requirements for social distancing, which in turn requires more proctors who need time for training/hiring. In addition, many usual site hosts for these exams are cancelling because they cannot meet the health requirements and logistics required.

Schools and higher educational systems across the country are making decisions to provide “test optional” for admissions (no ACT/SAT is required for admission). Our competitors such as schools in Colorado have been directed by a legislative mandate and governor approval that Colorado state funded universities go test optional. Also, the NCAA will not require an ACT/SAT exam for the incoming fall 2021 class.

Proposal

For the incoming fall 2021 class only, we request approval to not require an ACT/SAT to determine admissibility into UW. Instead, we will review student’s curriculum and unweighted gpa.

Students who are unable to take an ACT/SAT exam will only be eligible for the following amount of award:

Cowboy Commitment=\$500 for resident students who earn a 3.0 unweighted gpa or higher

Brown and Gold Commitment=\$1,000 for non-resident students who earn a 3.0 unweighted gpa or higher

Student who are able to take the ACT/SAT exam will be evaluated on the approved grid to determine a possible higher amount of award.

Admissions:

UW assured admissions requirements require a combination of ACT/SAT and GPA. UW Regulation 2-201 Admissions for Students outlines the admission requirements for the university and while it does allow for consideration through a holistic review – (IV. Undergraduate Admission Requirements; H. Holistic Alternative Admission) – a more straightforward process might be worth considering for this fall.

Students who have;

- 3.0-4.0 unweighted gpa will be an assured admit
- 2.99-2.50 unweighted gpa will be admitted with support
- 2.25-2.49 unweighted gpa will be reviewed on an individual case-by-case basis for admission

#### Scholarships and Financial Aid:

UW Scholarships commitments and guarantees are also based off of ACT/SAT data points. Providing Test optional admissions requires consideration for how awarding of scholarships will be determined without test score criteria.

In researching the scholarship component in each of these institutions admission process, many have declared students need to check back with more information:

Montana State: <http://www.montana.edu/admissions/scholarships/index.html>

Colorado State University: <https://financialaid.colostate.edu/scholarships-for-entering-non-resident-freshman/>

University of Arizona: <https://financialaid.arizona.edu/types-of-aid/scholarships/incoming-transfer>

University of Colorado Boulder: <https://www.colorado.edu/scholarships/cu-boulder-scholarships>

Utah State University: <https://www.usu.edu/admissions/costs-and-aid/#scholarships>

While others offer a holistic review for scholarship awards:

University of Nebraska Lincoln: <https://admissions.unl.edu/cost/#scholarships/F>

Texas Tech: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/scholarships/incFreshman.php>

Upon further analysis of the impact of going test-optional would have on scholarship awarding, EM will bring forward a recommendation to consider.

#### Additional Considerations:

The Wyoming Hathaway Scholarship requires an ACT/SAT score to determine eligibility. If a test optional is adopted by UW, a Wyoming student eligible for Hathaway will need to find a test date. WDE provides testing for all HS students as juniors, so fall 2021 admits may be okay.

By the end of May, roughly 1 million fewer non-Wyoming American 11th-graders had taken the SAT for the first time than would have been expected. At this point, 3/5 of 4 year (over 1,450 or 60%) of 4 year institutions have gone test optional, including some of our strongest competitors; CSU, MSU, CU, UNL, USU, ISU, etc.

#### Impact:

By requiring the ACT/SAT exam for admission and scholarship eligibility, a significant number of non-resident students will be impacted. Students will be faced with the obstacle of finding an exam, and then presented with a choice of schools not requiring the exam for entry. Barriers to student entry will impact application and admission rates at the University of Wyoming.

# ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS

## COMMITTEE MEETING MATERIALS

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Shared Governance Sullivan**

PUBLIC SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE:

Yes

No

FOR FULL BOARD CONSIDERATION:

Yes

*[Note: If yes, materials will also be included in the full UW Board of Trustee report.]*

No

*Attachments/materials are provided in advance of the meeting.*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

At the request of the Board of Trustees Regulation Committee, President Seidel is convening a working group to provide him with recommendations for the content of a UW Regulation related to shared governance. The Working Group's recommendations will be informed by UW's Pythian Paper on Shared Governance (currently being drafted by Professor McCracken Flesher and her working group) and the March 2017 AGB White Paper on Charged Governance. Tara Evans, Vice President and General Counsel, will chair this working group, and recommendations are due to President Seidel by December 1, 2020.

WHY THIS ITEM IS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE:

Information item for committee.

ACTION REQUIRED AT THIS COMMITTEE MEETING:

NA

PROPOSED MOTION:

NA