

Annual Report to CUSP on the Admissions Appeals Committee November 2020

As constituted in 1990 and revised in 2004 and 2007, the Undergraduate Admissions Appeals Committee consists of three voting members (two faculty and an undergraduate Dean) as well as three non-voting members (the Director of Undergraduate Admissions who serves as chair and a representative from the offices of Student-Athlete Academic Support Services and the College Access Collaborative).

For the 2019-2020 academic year, the voting members were Patty Raun (Director of the Center for Communicating Science), Christina McIntyre (Director of Professional Development and Major Scholarships, Honors College), and Robert Denton (W. Thomas Rice Chair and Department Head – Communication). The non-voting members were Matthew Mayotte (Director of Student-Athlete Academic Support Services), Karen Eley Sanders (Associate Vice Provost for College Access), and Juan Espinoza (Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management & Director of Undergraduate Admissions).

For the 2019-2020 admission terms (Summer 2019, Fall 2019, and Spring 2020) one case from Athletics was heard, and it was Approved. It was an International student.

- Approved Case took courses in Ghana in 9th grade and performed “above average”, according to Tyler Oxley, Senior Assistant Director for International Admissions. The student completed high school coursework in Connecticut, and graduated with a 2.61 GPA. The student’s best combined SAT score was an 810.

In terms of more historical data, for the terms Summer 2014 through Spring 2020, 20 cases from Athletics were heard. Of these, 18 cases were approved and 17 enrolled. Of these, 8 graduated (2 pursued Graduate Studies), 4 are still enrolled in good standing (GPA range 2.40–3.85), and 5 left the university in good standing (1 was drafted to play professionally). Of note, 8 of the 17 enrolled cases were named to the Atlantic Coast Conference Academic Honor Roll during their time at Virginia Tech.

The Operating Document of the Appeals Committee requires that the number of approved cases should not exceed 1% of the freshman class, about 66 students with our 2019 freshman goal of 6,600. The largest number of approvals in a single year since 2011-2012 is 8.

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Data was taken from the Admissions Appeals Report and the Appeals Summary Report