MEMORANDUM

TO: Martha Louder, Speaker
Faculty Senate

SUBJECT: Recommendations Regarding Changes in the Undergraduate Admissions Standards

At its meeting of 31 October, the Undergraduate Admissions Advisory Committee voted to recommend the following changes to the undergraduate admissions standards. These changes in admissions standards will apply to those students applying for freshman admission to Texas A&M University for the Summer/Fall terms of 2006, or earlier if permissible by State Law.

I. All freshman applicants will be required to complete essay questions A and B on the Texas Common Application. (Currently, applicants are asked, at their option, to complete essay question C. With this change, freshman applicants will no longer be asked, at their option, to complete essay question C.)

II. Students submitting a complete application to Texas A&M University as freshman applicants and who meet the following requirements will be granted automatic admission:

1. Present standardized test scores consisting of
   a. A combined SAT Math and SAT Verbal test score of at least 1300, with a test score of at least 600 in each of these components of the SAT (Currently, the student must simply post a combined test score of 1300. With this change, the student is expected to perform to a higher level on each component than what was previously required);
   b. Or, for applicants choosing to present ACT test results, scores in the ACT Math, ACT English, and ACT Composite corresponding to scores of SAT Math 600, SAT Verbal 600, and SAT total 1300, respectively (The corresponding ACT scores will be determined by the SAT/ACT concordance in effect at the time);
2. And, be in the highest quarter of the student's high school graduating class (This raises the standards since, currently, students must only be in the top half of their Texas high school or in the top quarter of their non-Texas high school); and
3. And, at a minimum, successfully complete the following college preparatory course work (This does not represent a change, but is included to indicate that automatic admission would still require students to complete this track of study in high school.):
   a. Four years of college preparatory English
b. Three and a half years of mathematics to include Algebra, Geometry, Algebra II and advanced math

c. Three years of science with at least two courses from Biology I, Chemistry I or Physics I

d. Two years of the same foreign language

III. A complete application for freshman applicants must include either SAT or ACT test results, or both, at the applicant’s discretion. In either case, the applicant must submit the scores of the writing component as a part of the SAT or ACT test. *(This change reflects the upcoming addition of the Writing component to the SAT and ACT tests.)*

As you are aware, time is of the essence so that these changes can be considered by President Gates and our Board of Regents. Thus, I would very much appreciate your placing these recommendations on the Faculty Senate’s November agenda.

Thank you.

Mark H. Weichold
Dean of Undergraduate Programs and Associate Provost for Academic Services

pc: Dr. David B. Prior
Dr. William L. Perry
Undergraduate Admissions Advisory Committee