



MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala
President

From: Stephen Sapp
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Sapp".

Date: March 31, 2008

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2007-42(D) –Faculty Senate Academic Standards
Committee Report on Undergraduate Admissions

The Faculty Senate, at its March 26, 2008 meeting, voted unanimously to accept the Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee Report on Undergraduate Admissions.

The report is enclosed for your reference.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your information.

SS/rh

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
David J. Birnbach, Vice Provost for University Administration and Faculty Affairs
Andrea Heuson, Chair, Academic Standards Committee

[Please contact the Senate office to view this proposal.]

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS REPORT, 2007 - 2008

Annual Report on Admissions and Undergraduate Student Quality Prepared by the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standards¹

Purpose of this Report: To provide a Faculty Senate sponsored assessment of the quality of new students enrolled in Fall 2007.

Summary

By all standard measures, the University of Miami entering class of 2007 is one of the top freshman classes in UM history. A total of 66% of new freshmen graduated in the top decile of their high school class, and the mean SAT scores rose by 6 points, to 1275, which is an all-time high. Information in this report shows that the administration's commitment to heightened selectivity and the hard work of enrollment and admissions staff have combined to continue to enhance the quality of the applicant pool. Even more encouraging news is that the quality gap between UM and institutions in three important comparison groups continues to close dramatically, a trend that we hope will continue. This report also contains evidence that transfer students are performing acceptably well once they arrive on campus, although transfers from two-year institutions may benefit from specific academic support when they first arrive on campus.

Academic Quality of Newly Enrolled Students, Fall 2007

The format of the report is similar to that used in last year.

I. **The Freshman Class**

a. **Overview**

The news is excellent regarding the freshman class that entered the University in Fall 2007. The incoming class for the past fall consists of a final total of 1,991 freshmen, (resulting from 19,809 initial applications, or 16,131 completed applications), and 626 transfers, (resulting from 3,565 initial applications and 1,909 completed applications). The number of applications in both categories increased. Freshmen applications rose by almost 800, the largest increase since 2004, but transfer applications rose at a somewhat slower rate than in recent years.

b. **Official SAT and ACT Scores**

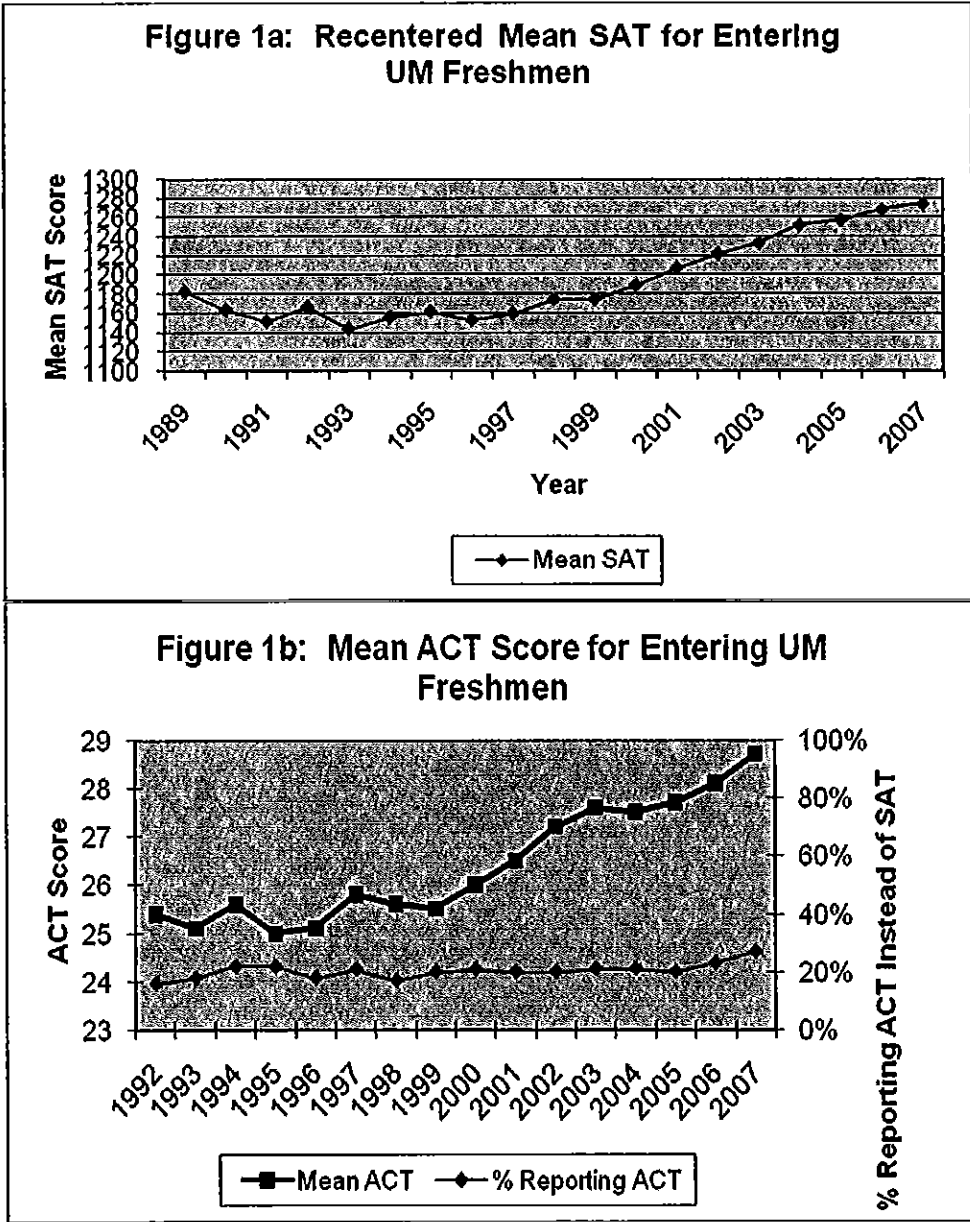
The average SAT score of the entering freshmen continues to improve, rising 6 points from last year to a level of 1275.

Since 2004, the UM admissions office (and other institutions we compete with) has used ACT scores for students whose ACT scores are better than their SAT scores.² At this point the ACT score is the guiding metric for more than one-quarter of the entering class. SAT scores are displayed in Figure 1a on the next page, while ACT scores and the percentage of the class accepted using that

¹ Members of the Academic Standards Committee are: Manuel Huerta, Bobby Lee Robertson, Michiko Kitayama Skinner, Alyse Lancaster, Andrea Heuson (Chair), Kenn Rudd, Stephen Cantrell (*ex-officio*) and William Green (*ex-officio*). Data on UM students in this report were made available by Mary Sapp and the staff of the Office of Planning and Institutional Research and by Paul Orehovec and the staff of the Office of Enrollments.

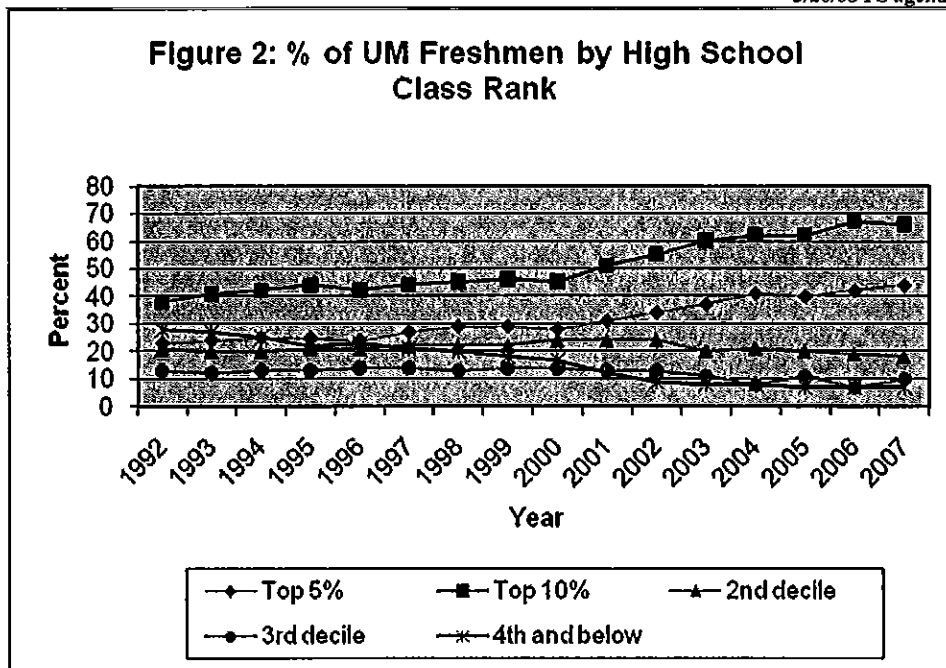
² Given this assumption, UM's official mean SAT score is based only on the population of enrolled students who performed better on the SAT than on the ACT, or submitted only an SAT score. This methodology is also used by our competitors.

score appear in Figure 1b. Both score averages exhibit a significant increasing trend although the rate of increase in SAT improvement has slowed somewhat. The Provost's office predicted this result last year, given that competition for the best students increases dramatically as a school rises through the ranks of institutions. From this perspective we should be glad that more and more applicants are being admitted via an ACT score since we continue to show dramatic improvement on that metric.



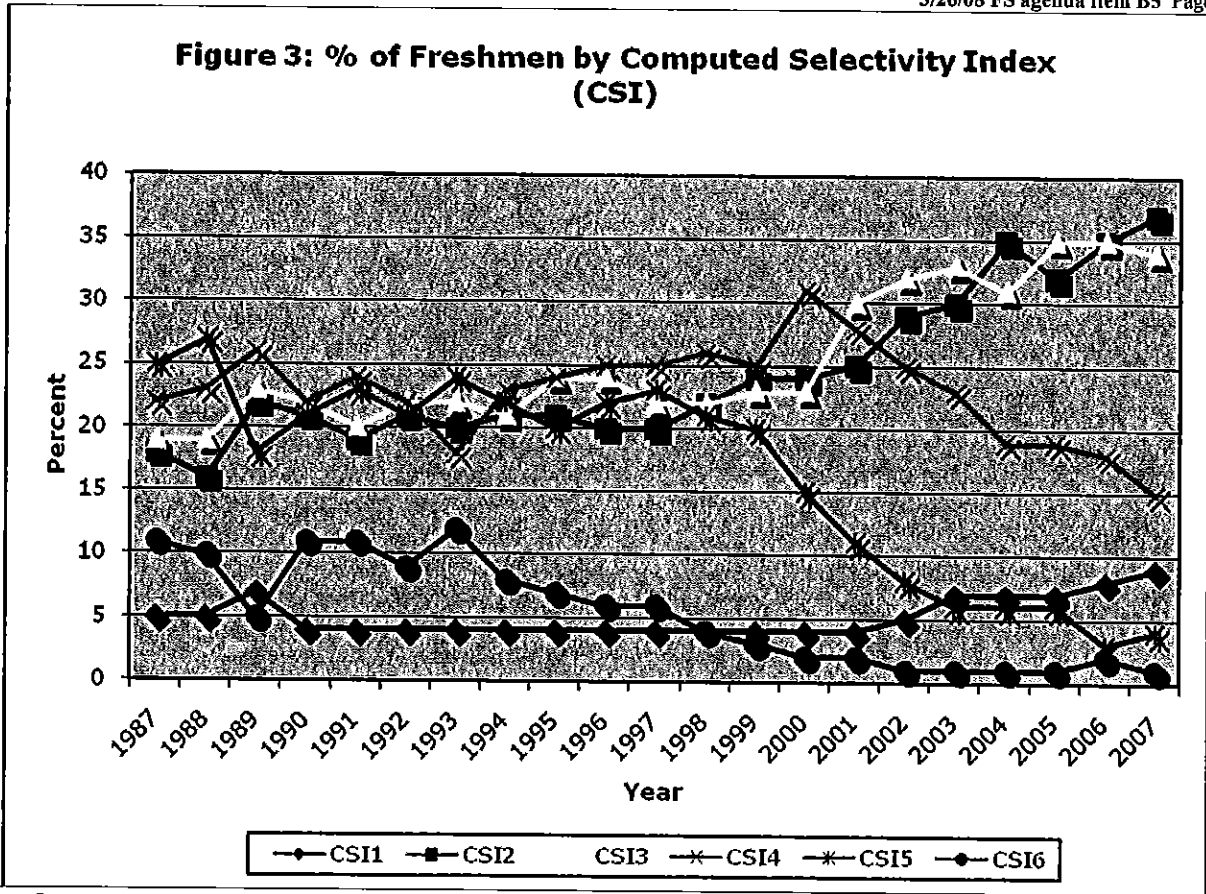
c. Class Rank

Sixty-six percent of the incoming freshmen ranked in the top 10% of their high school graduating class and the number of students ranked in the top 5% of their class has risen from 42% to 44% of the class this year. We hope that the downward trend in 2nd decile enrollments and the upward trend in 3rd decile enrollments reverse next year (Figure 2).



d. Computed Selectivity Index

The freshman class is also evaluated by Computed Selectivity Index (CSI), which combines standardized test score and academic performance in high school. Under that measure, 46% of the new freshmen are selectivity 1 or 2, up slightly from 45% last year. Figure 3 also shows that the number of less qualified CSI 4 students continues to decrease while the number of CSI 5 and CSI 6 students, our weakest freshmen, has remained stable.

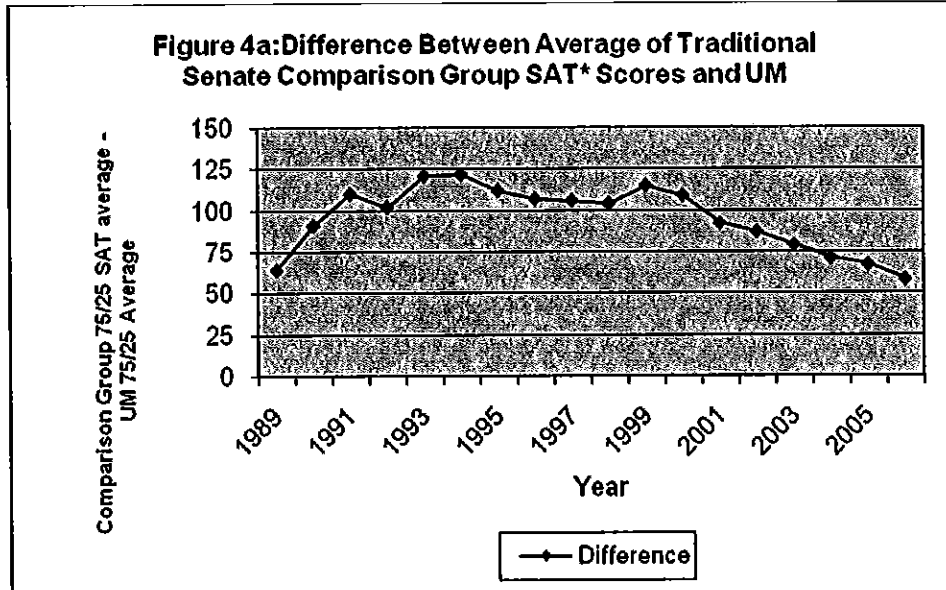


e. Comparing UM's Freshman Class to That of Other Universities

1. Comparison to the Traditional Senate List

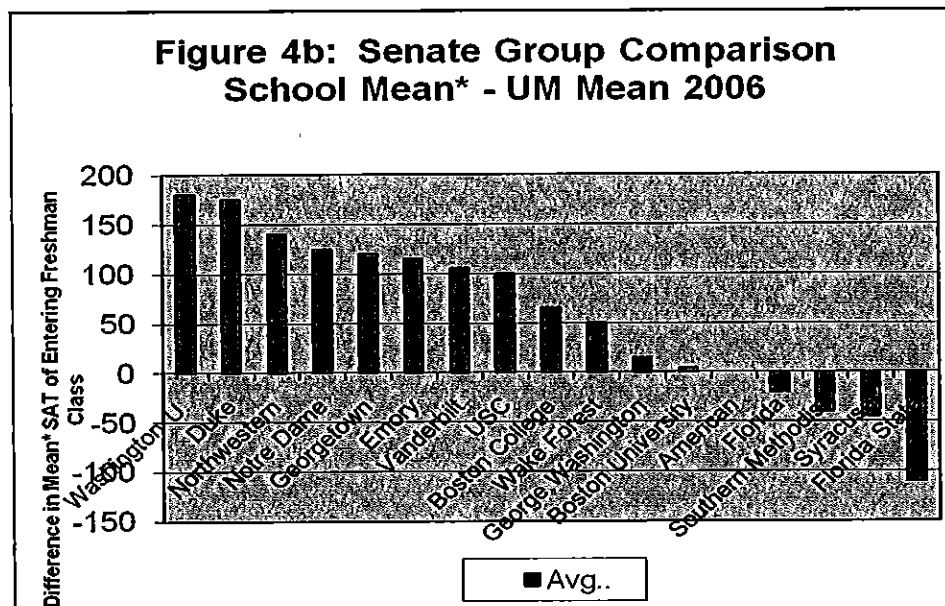
Information available in special issue of U.S. News and World Report published in the summer of 2007 allows us to compare UM's progress in enhancing student quality to progress achieved by other institutions for the 2006 entering class. U.S. News publishes the SAT score of the 75th percentile and the 25th percentile of the freshman class, rather than the mean SAT score, so this report uses the mean of those two numbers as a proxy for the average SAT score of the entering class.³ Since 1989 the Faculty Senate Academic Standards report has compared UM SAT scores to the following group of public and private institutions: American University, Boston College, Boston University, Duke, Emory, Florida, Florida State, George Washington, Georgetown, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Southern Methodist, Syracuse, USC, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, and Washington University. Figure 4a shows the difference between the average of UM's 75th and 25th percentile SAT scores and the mean of the 75th and 25th percentile averages for the Senate comparison group. The strong trend in *relative improvement* that began in 2000 continues in 2006.

³ While we have no way of determining how accurate this approximation is for other schools, it is quite close for UM in 2006 when the average SAT score was 1269 and the 75th and 25th percentiles were 1350 and 1190 respectively, for an average of 1269. This approximation has been used in this report for many years.



* Average of 75th Percentile and 25th Percentile Official SAT Score

Figure 4b shows the average 75th and 25th percentile SAT score less the corresponding UM value of 1270 for each school in the Senate comparison group for the year 2006. Schools are ranked in descending order so the right hand side of the chart indicates institutions where the freshman class SAT score is essentially identical to or below the University of Miami's value. In 2006, we moved ahead of the University of Florida, caught up with American University, and closed in on Boston University.

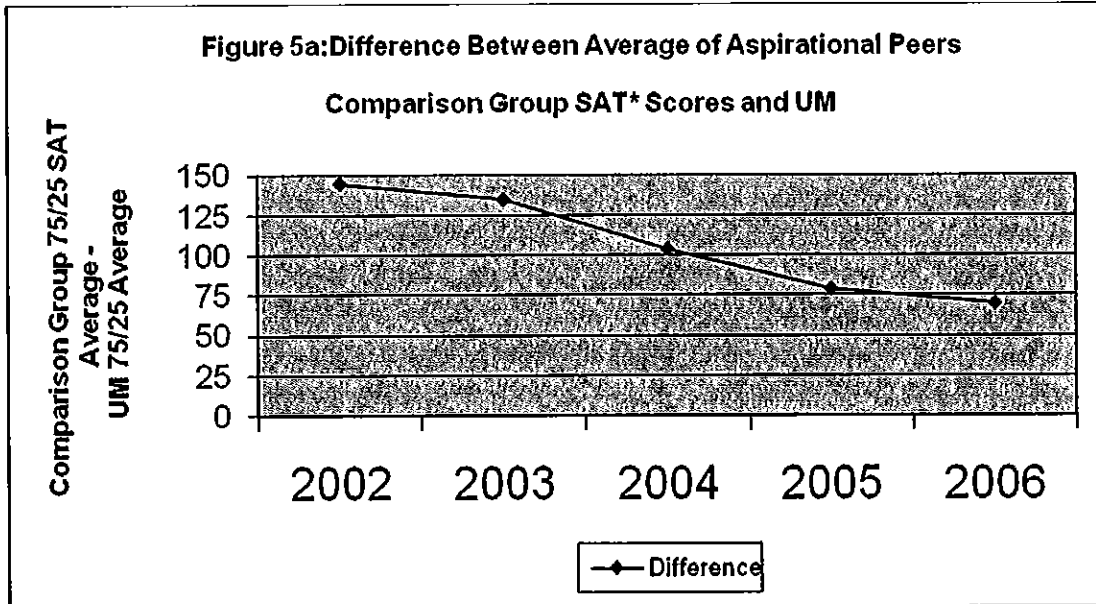


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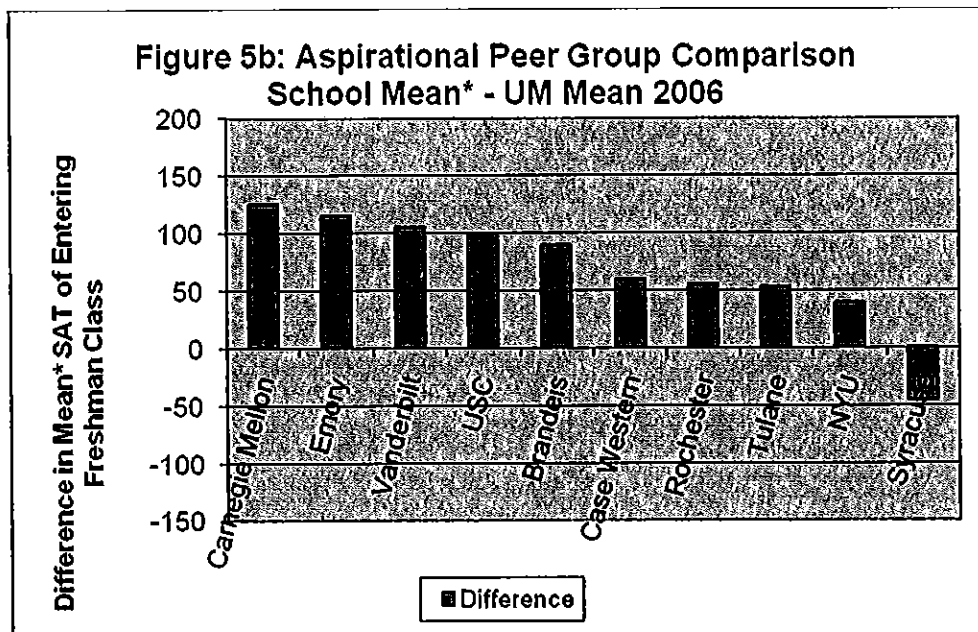
2. Our "Aspirational Peers"

The Provost's Office has identified a set of 10 private universities that are members of the American Association of Universities (AAU), an association we aspire to join, and rank at or above the University of Miami in the U.S. News rankings. The Faculty Senate voted to accept these 10 schools as our "aspirational peers" in the fall of 2006.

Lack of access to historical U.S. News and World Report data means that Figure 5a, below, is based on a much shorter time series than Figure 4a. Still, it is clear that the quality of the UM freshman class in the fall of 2006 continues to improve relative to that of the schools we aspire to emulate. The specific schools are Brandeis, Carnegie Mellon, Case Western, Emory, NYU, Rochester, Syracuse, Tulane, USC, and Vanderbilt. Figure 5b is similar to Figure 4b. The right-hand side of that Figure indicates that UM continues to rank above one of the aspirational peers (Syracuse).



*Average of 75th Percentile and 25th Percentile Official SAT Score

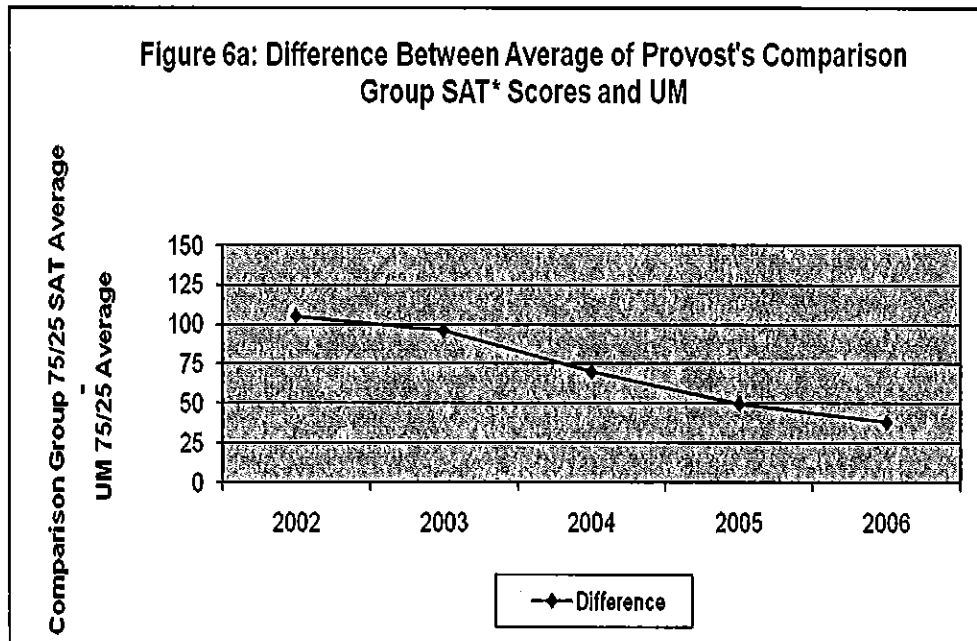


* Average of 75th Percentile and 25th Percentile Official SAT Score

3. Schools That Prospective UM Students Also Have Their SAT Scores Sent to ("Overlap" Schools)

A third comparison group is the set of schools that students who have their SAT scores sent to UM select as additional reporting schools. The admissions office has kept track of the ten strongest "overlap" schools for a number of years.⁴

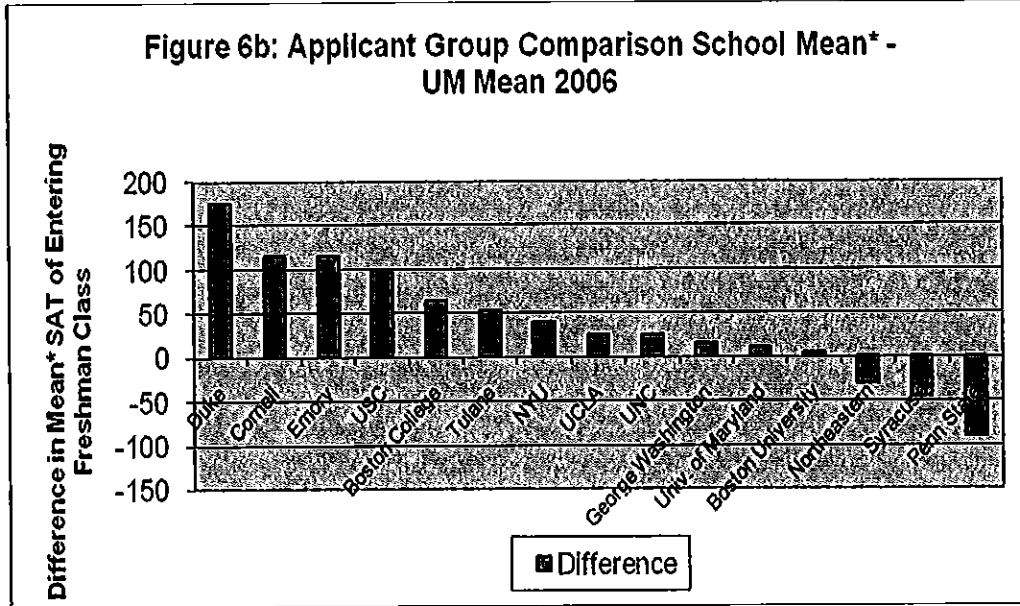
Figures 6a and 6b, which mimic 4a and 4b, are compiled for a list of 15 public and private universities that consistently appear in the universe of overlap schools.⁵ UM's official SAT score is much closer to the average of these schools and shows the same impressive improvement over the past two years. Also, Figure 6b shows that UM's freshman class is now essentially equal to or better than a third of this comparison group. Taken together, these three sets of Figures document consistent, significant improvement in the *relative* position of UM's freshman class in recent years.



* Average of 75th Percentile and 25th Percentile Official SAT Score

⁴ Florida and Florida State are our largest "overlap" schools but are not included in the Enrollment report assessment or in this section of our analysis because we view those schools as secondary competition for the students we want to attract. Both are included in the previous analysis in Tables 4a and 4b.

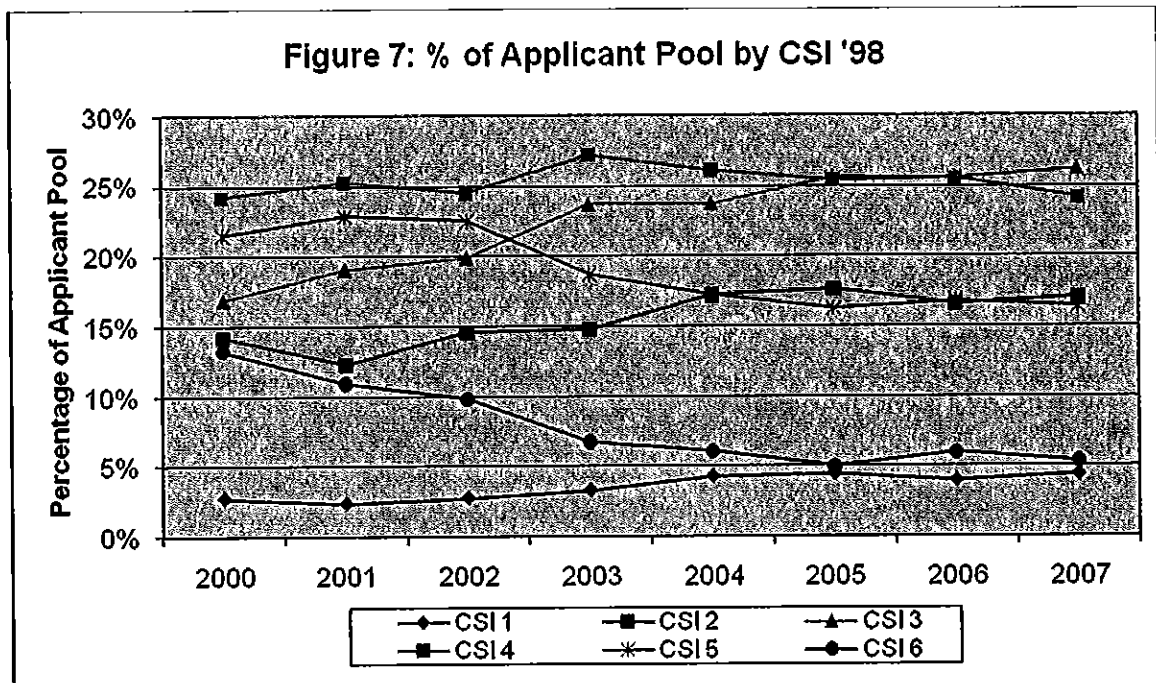
⁵ "Overlap schools include: Boston College, Boston University, Cornell, Duke, Emory, George Washington, New York University, Northeastern, Penn State, Syracuse, Tulane and the Universities of Los Angeles, Maryland, North Carolina and Southern California.



* Average of 75th Percentile and 25th Percentile Official SAT Score

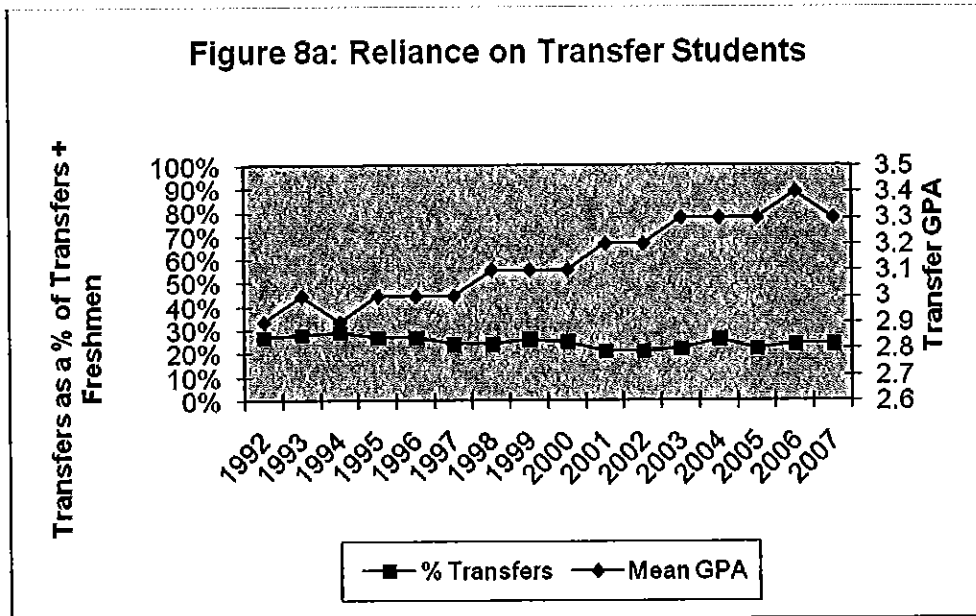
f. Shifts in the Quality of the Applicant Pool

Our final assessment of the quality of the freshman class extends beyond students enrolled here and considers changes in the pool of applicants to the University of Miami. If the news about our improving quality has penetrated the market of potential students we should see an increase in the quality of the applicant pool. Figure 7 (on the next page) segments the completed application pool by Computed Selectivity Index (CSI). The chart shows that word about our success does appear to be affecting the application decisions of weaker prospective students. As a percentage of the applicant pool, CS5 and CS6 students have decreased by 14% since the year 2000, while the percentage of students in the top three CSIs has increased by 13%.



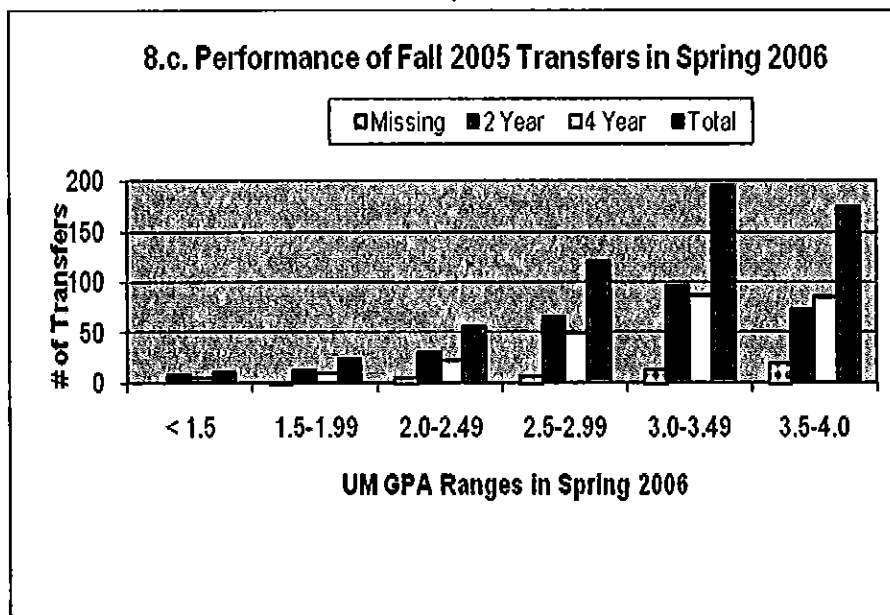
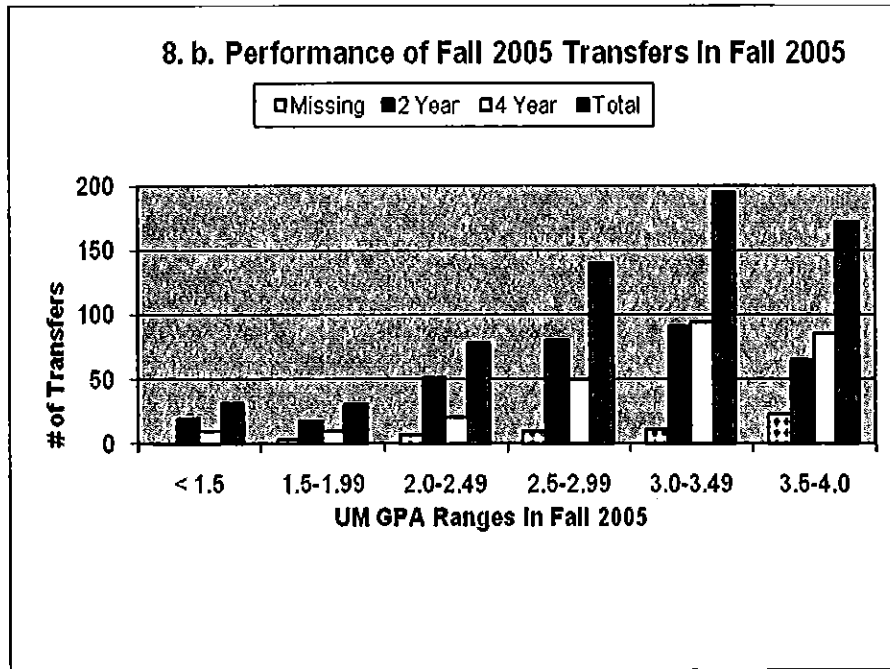
II. Transfer Students

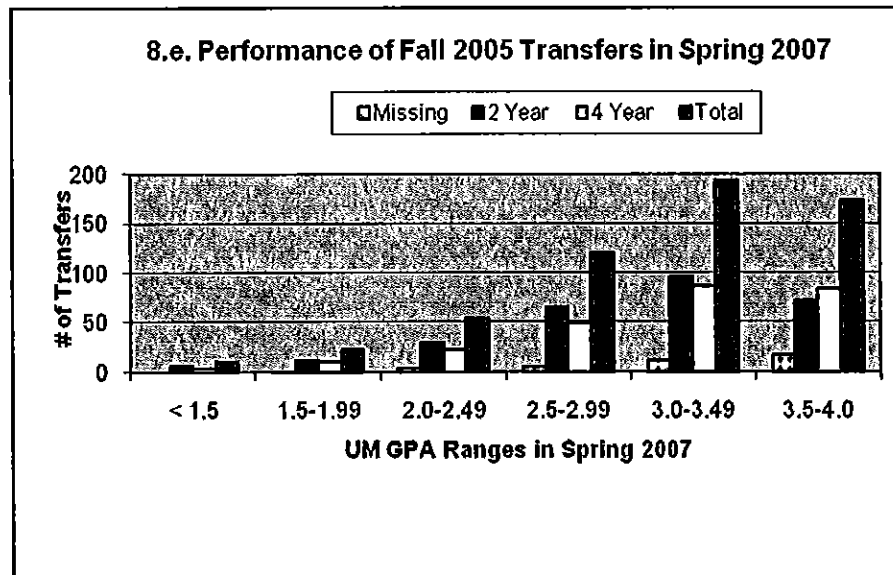
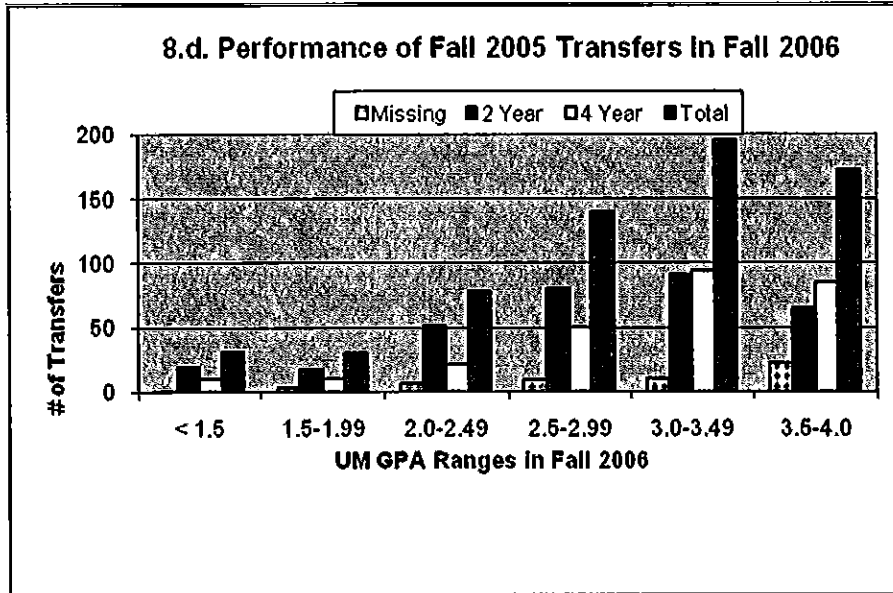
A significant percentage of the new students on campus each fall are transfer students from 2-year and 4-year American institutions and foreign schools. Figure 8a demonstrates that the percentage of transfer students has declined slightly from the early 1990's but that transfers still make up about one-fourth of the entering class. The entering GPA of the transfer students has increased significantly over the same time period.



A second area of concern about transfer students is how they perform once they arrive. Figures 8b to 8e track the UM GPAs of Fall 2005 transfer students during their first four semesters at UM. Data are segregated by school of origin when it is possible to do so. The charts indicate that most transfer students do reasonably well (GPAs in excess of 2.5) once they get here, and that transfers from 4-year schools tend to have higher UM GPAs than transfers from 2-year schools.

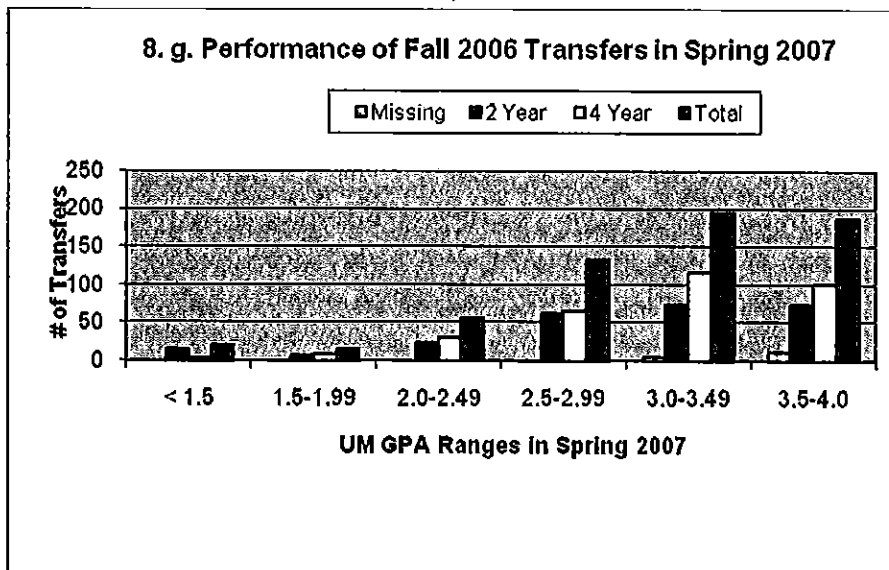
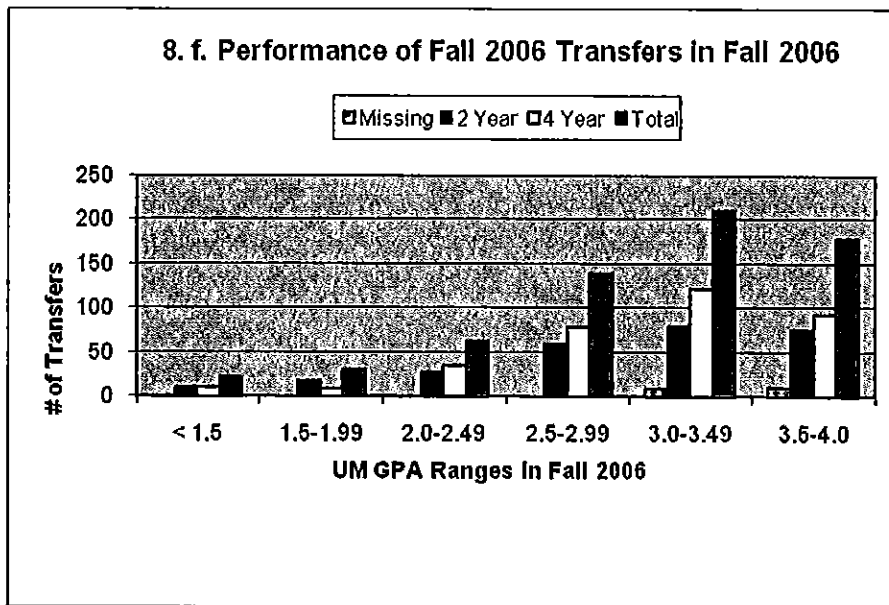
FALL 2005 TRANSFERS: 4 SEMESTER HISTORY





Figures 8f and 8g track Fall 2006 transfers during their first two semesters here and show a similar pattern, although the performance disparity between transfers from 4-year and 2-year institutions on the higher GPA side of the chart (the right-hand side) is somewhat more pronounced. This suggests that transfer students from community colleges would benefit from specific academic remediation efforts when they first arrive on campus.

FALL 2006 TRANSFERS: 2 SEMESTER HISTORY:



III. Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the available statistics, it is easy to make the case that the entering students of Fall 2007 are as good or better than the class of 2006. For the next few years, the large numbers of students reaching college age should continue to work in our favor. The recent trend towards improved student quality is likely to continue as the Administration's willingness to limit the size of the freshman class gives us the luxury of being more selective in admissions even as growth in numbers of applicants slows. It is somewhat worrisome that the improvement in quality is not as strong as in previous years by some measures given that the entering class was held to 2,000 students but the Provost's Office has been warning the committee for a few years now that continued improvements in student quality will be more difficult to achieve as the competition for the best students intensifies.

While colleges and universities across the country have been deriving similar benefits from increased application pressure, we still see incontrovertible signs that efforts to close the quality gap with the three different groups of comparison institutions have been visibly successful for the Class of 2006.

It is important to emphasize that the undeniable and commendable progress the University has made in improving the credentials of entering freshman classes over the past few years has not occurred in a vacuum. Although the mean SAT score for entering freshman is now some 92 points higher than it was in 1989, the gap in this measurement of the academic credentials between the average for freshman entering the University of Miami and for those entering universities in the longtime comparison group has just dropped below the 1989 level, for the first time in 18 years. The difference between the UM Mean SAT and that of our longest-followed comparison group declined by 6 points last year, a trend we hope will continue.

More encouraging news comes from evidence in this report that UM continues to catch up to a group of 10 private universities ranked above us in the U. S. News survey (our "aspirational peers") and to a group of 15 private institutions that prospective applicants see as our competition (our "overlap" schools). Furthermore, the quality of transfer students enrolling here is steady in terms of entering GPA, and those students perform acceptably well once they arrive. Nonetheless, continued improvement in the average SAT and ACT score for entering freshman is needed if UM is to become comparable to schools we aim to emulate in terms of student quality.

The committee believes that this administration is committed to moving the quality of the entering class of University of Miami freshman up to a level commensurate with that of our aspirational peers as quickly as is financially possible. Measurable progress has been made, especially in the last three classes. With that in mind, the committee recommends an extension of last year's goal.⁶ **As in the spring of 2007, we endorse the goal of improvement of at least 35 points in mean SAT scores over the next four years (from 1275 to 1310) and a willingness to commit to a long-term target of mean SAT scores at 1310 or above.**

⁶ The 2006 report recommended a 40 point improvement, (from 1269 to 1310), in four years.

Faculty Senate Office

From: Faculty Senate Office
Sent: Tuesday, December 09, 2008 10:33 AM
To: Sapp, Stephen
Subject: D legislation we discussed this morning

I can't find any formal response from the President on either of these 2 pieces of legislation from last year:

Legislation #2007-42(D) - Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee Report on Undergraduate Admissions

Legislation #2007-45(D)- Women and Minorities Committee Report

I will add this to the agenda for the next President/officers meeting. I am in the process of scheduling those meetings for spring with Lucy.

Robyn

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**March 26, 2008
Faculty Senate minutes**

The meeting, held in the BankUnited Center Hurricane 100 Room, opened at 3:35 p.m.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

The First Vice Chair announced that she will be chairing today's meeting and highlighted some of the information in the Chair's remarks that were part of the agenda package.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The President explained that she and the Provost were in the middle of the SACS on-site review visit. She reported on the new hospital and said that we are on-budget and are about to complete the permanent financing, which will be less than what was projected due to the market. She had warned the trustees that the rating agencies might downgrade us because of the debt load we would be incurring, but instead they noted our strong balance sheets and did not downgrade us.

We are struggling in Tallahassee because the Senate has cut FRAG money for each Florida student attending private colleges and universities. Our full-time lobbying staff is still fighting this legislation. We also expect some other programming cuts.

The Board of Trustees Finance Committee approved the Financial Plan that accompanies the Strategic Plan and recommended construction of the new Business School building in anticipation of its approval by the Master Planning and Construction Committee.

The Provost shared that the SACS on-site team is concluding its work on campus and is meeting in executive session now to formulate its findings and recommendations. He feels that the visit is going well and thanked everyone who participated.

He stated that the Miller School of Medicine portion of the Strategic Plan went to the Board's Medical Affairs Committee this morning for their approval and will then be forwarded to the Executive Committee. As the President mentioned, the Financial Plan as presented earlier to the Senate's Budget and Compensation Committee was approved by the Board Finance Committee, and the Administration is hopeful that it will be approved in May by the Board.

The Provost reported on the University's investments. For the last fiscal year, 2007, our return on the growth pool was 19.7% for the year. The benchmark we were attempting to beat was 17.7%. So far for fiscal year 2008 we are down 4.9%. Our benchmark is 4.3%. UM uses a three-year moving average that smoothes out discontinuities in the market. The President and Provost entertained questions from the floor.

APPROVAL OF TODAY'S AGENDA

The meeting agenda *passed unanimously*.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 27, 2008

The minutes of February 27, 2008, *passed unanimously*.

INTRODUCTION OF SHERI A. KEITZ, M.D. PH.D.

Dr. Keitz is the Associate Dean for Faculty Diversity and Development, Miller School of Medicine. She has been a physician for about 18 years and her goal is to do what she can to optimize the care of the patient and populations that we work with and to make an impact on the future. She thanked the Senate for its work in extending the tenure clock at the Miller School of Medicine.

MIAMI INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN GENOMICS [MIHG] AND COMPONENT CENTER PROPOSALS

[Please contact the Senate office to view the proposal.]

Jennifer McCafferty-Cepero presented the proposal with the suggestions requested and approved by the General Welfare Committee. She reviewed the proposal that creates an umbrella institution called the "Miami Institute for Human Genomics" with five separate component centers. The intent is for the centers to exist within the umbrella institute and not to exist in the absence of that institute as was recommended by the General Welfare Committee. The institute will reside initially at the Miller School of Medicine and will house disciplines that draw from a variety of departments at the Miller School. The letters of support for the institute come from all of the basic science chairs, a majority of the clinical departments that have research activities, and the major centers and institutes that already exist at Miller. The five-year projected plan was inadvertently missing from the proposal included with the materials so Dr. McCafferty-Cepero gave an oral summary. She then entertained questions from the floor.

A senator stated that he expects to see regular review of centers and institutes, and another senator asked about provisions to address the ethical aspects raised by advances in human genetics. Dr. McCafferty-Cepero responded that the institute is developing a program in conjunction with Dr. Ken Goodman of the University Ethics Programs.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

PROPOSAL FOR A DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

[Please contact the Senate office to view the proposal.]

Huseyin Kocak presented the proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science. He pointed out that he had received additional letters of support as was requested by the Senate Chair. There is no additional funding needed. There were no questions.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

PROPOSAL FOR A NEW DEGREE PROGRAM, THE MASTER IN REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AND URBANISM (MRED&U)

[Please contact the Senate office to view the proposal.]

Dean Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk was accompanied by Charles Bohl and presented the proposal. She discussed the aspects of design and the larger context of sustainable and livable communities, with concerns for environmental conservation, social equity, and economics. The University of Miami School of Architecture is recognized as the top school in the country for presenting the principles of the new urbanism. The Knight Program in Community Building has brought significant experience in the implementation of the principles, which have been built in and espoused by the faculty. This new degree is intended to be a mid-career program that will work with fellows of multiple disciplines and communities around the country under the sponsorship of the Knight Program. The comments of the General Welfare Committee regarding incorporation of ecological responsibility into the degree were endorsed by the school's faculty and wording was added to the proposal to reflect this commitment. The presenters entertained questions and comments from the floor.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION REPORT

[Please contact the Senate office to view the proposal.]

Dr. R. Stephen Cantrell, *ex officio* member of the committee, noted that the report is a continuation of reports in the past. He highlighted the comparisons of the university with other universities in the report and entertained questions from the floor. The Provost also reiterated some of the points of his presentation at the last Senate meeting. The Provost also entertained comments/questions from the floor.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the report. The motion was approved unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the recommendation of the committee as the Senate's recommendation. The motion was approved unanimously.

MOVE OF MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION FROM THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS TO THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

The First Vice Chair presented the proposal to move the Master of Public Administration from the School of Business to the College of Arts and Sciences.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

SENATE APPORTIONMENT

The First Vice Chair presented the General Welfare Committee's recommendation that the apportionment constant be kept at 10, increasing the number of senators to 50 by adding one senator for the Miller School of Medicine and one for the Frost School of Music.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposal. The motion was approved unanimously.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Vice Chair pointed out that the Chair is willing to serve as chair again next year and thus has suggested that the Senate elect the Nominating Committee for next year's Senate officers. Norman Einspruch, Marvin Dawkins, Lenny Koniaris, Patricia Byers, and Lynne Fieber were nominated from the floor.

A motion was made and seconded to elect these individuals as the Nominating Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

The remainder of the meeting was held in Executive Session to discuss the Outstanding Teaching Award recommendation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robyn Hardeman
Secretary of the Faculty Senate

FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA
BankUnited Center, Hurricane 100 Room
March 26, 2008 – 3:30 p.m.

For all items except B4 [CLICK HERE](#)
For Item B4 [CLICK HERE](#)

A.	<u>Introductory Matters</u>	Approx. Time
A1.	# <u>Chair's remarks</u>	3:30
A2.	President's remarks	3:35
A3.	Approval of today's agenda	4:00
A4.	# <u>Approval of minutes of February 27, 2008</u>	4:05
A5.	Other announcements	4:10
B.	<u>General Matters</u>	
B1.	Introduction of Sheri A. Keitz, M.D., Ph.D., Associate dean for Faculty Diversity and Development, Miller School of Medicine, Chief, Medical Service, Miami VA Healthcare System – S. Hayes	4:15
B2.	* <u>Miami Institute for Human Genomics and Component Center Proposals</u> – J. McCafferty-Cepero	4:30
B3.	* Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science – H. Kocak	4:45
B4.	* <u>Proposal for a New Degree Program; the Master in Real Estate Development and Urbanism (MRED&U)</u> – E. Plater-Zyberk, C. Bohl	5:10
B5.	* <u>Academic Standards Committee Undergraduate Admission Report</u> – S. Cantrell	5:35
B6.	# <u>Move of Master of Public Administration from the School of Business Administration to the College of Arts and Sciences</u> – S. Hayes	6:00
B7.	# <u>Senate Apportionment</u> – S. Hayes	6:05
B8.	Election of Nominating Committee – S. Hayes	6:15
C.	<u>Other Business</u>	
D.	<u>Executive Session</u>	
D1.	Selection of the Outstanding Teaching Award recipient	6:20
E.	<u>Adjournment</u>	

related material

* These materials are not for public viewing and will not be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS REPORT, 2007 - 2008

Annual Report on Admissions and Undergraduate Student Quality Prepared by the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standards¹

Purpose of this Report: To provide a Faculty Senate sponsored assessment of the quality of new students enrolled in Fall 2007.

Summary

By all standard measures, the University of Miami entering class of 2007 is one of the top freshman classes in UM history. A total of 66% of new freshmen graduated in the top decile of their high school class, and the mean SAT scores rose by 6 points, to 1275, which is an all-time high. Information in this report shows that the administration's commitment to heightened selectivity and the hard work of enrollment and admissions staff have combined to continue to enhance the quality of the applicant pool. Even more encouraging news is that the quality gap between UM and institutions in three important comparison groups continues to close dramatically, a trend that we hope will continue. This report also contains evidence that transfer students are performing acceptably well once they arrive on campus, although transfers from two-year institutions may benefit from specific academic support when they first arrive on campus.

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b. Official SAT and ACT Scores

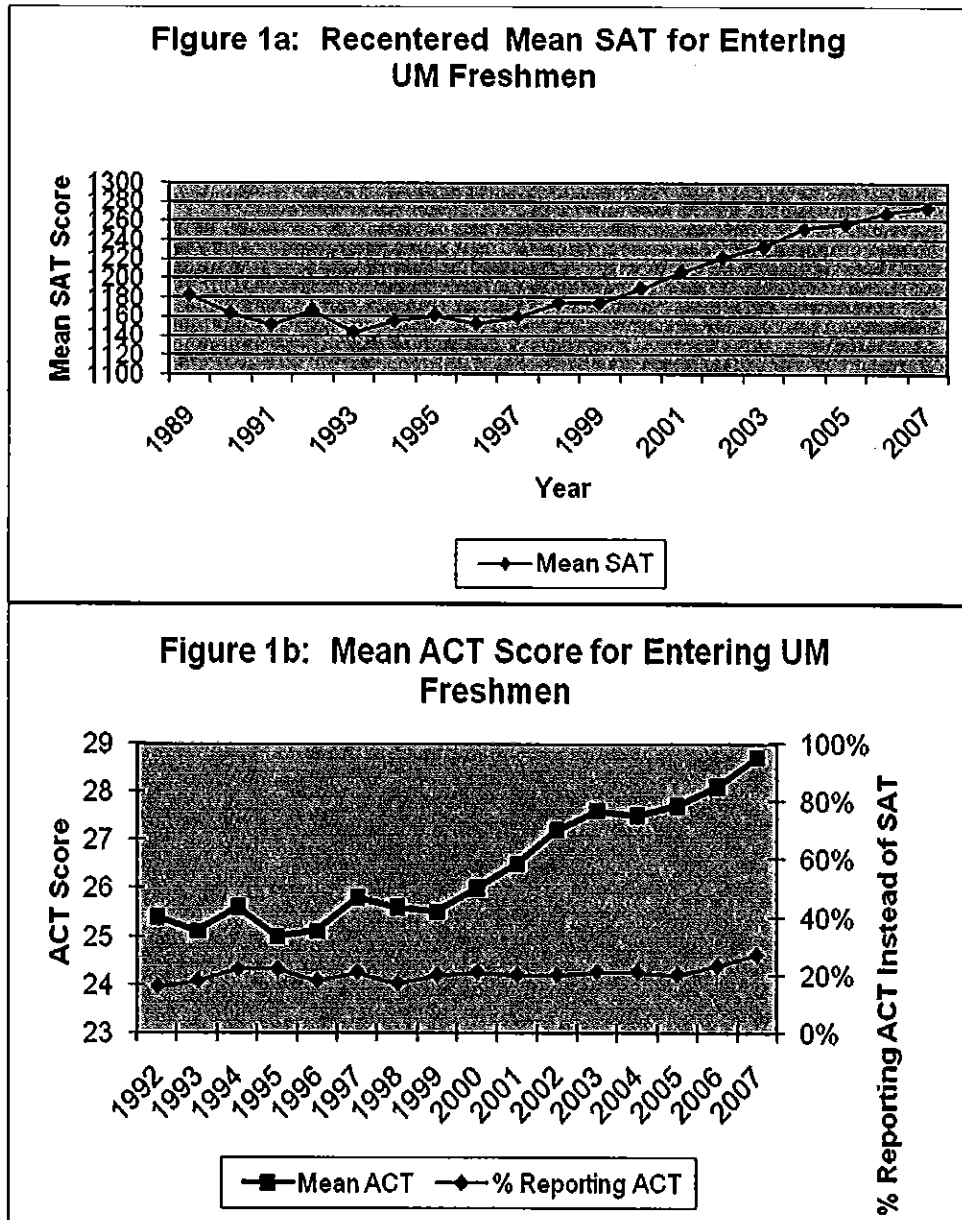
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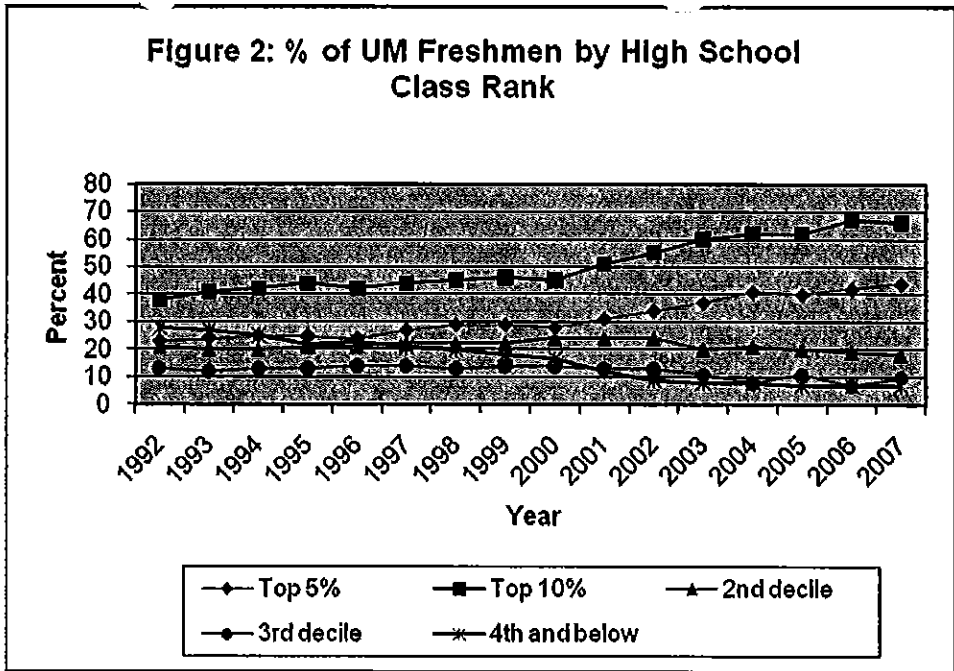
² Given this assumption, UM's official mean SAT score is based only on the population of enrolled students who performed better on the SAT than on the ACT, or submitted only an SAT score. This methodology is also used by our competitors.

score appear in Figure 1b. Both score averages exhibit a significant increasing trend although the rate of increase in SAT improvement has slowed somewhat. The Provost's office predicted this result last year, given that competition for the best students increases dramatically as a school rises through the ranks of institutions. From this perspective we should be glad that more and more applicants are being admitted via an ACT score since we continue to show dramatic improvement on that metric.



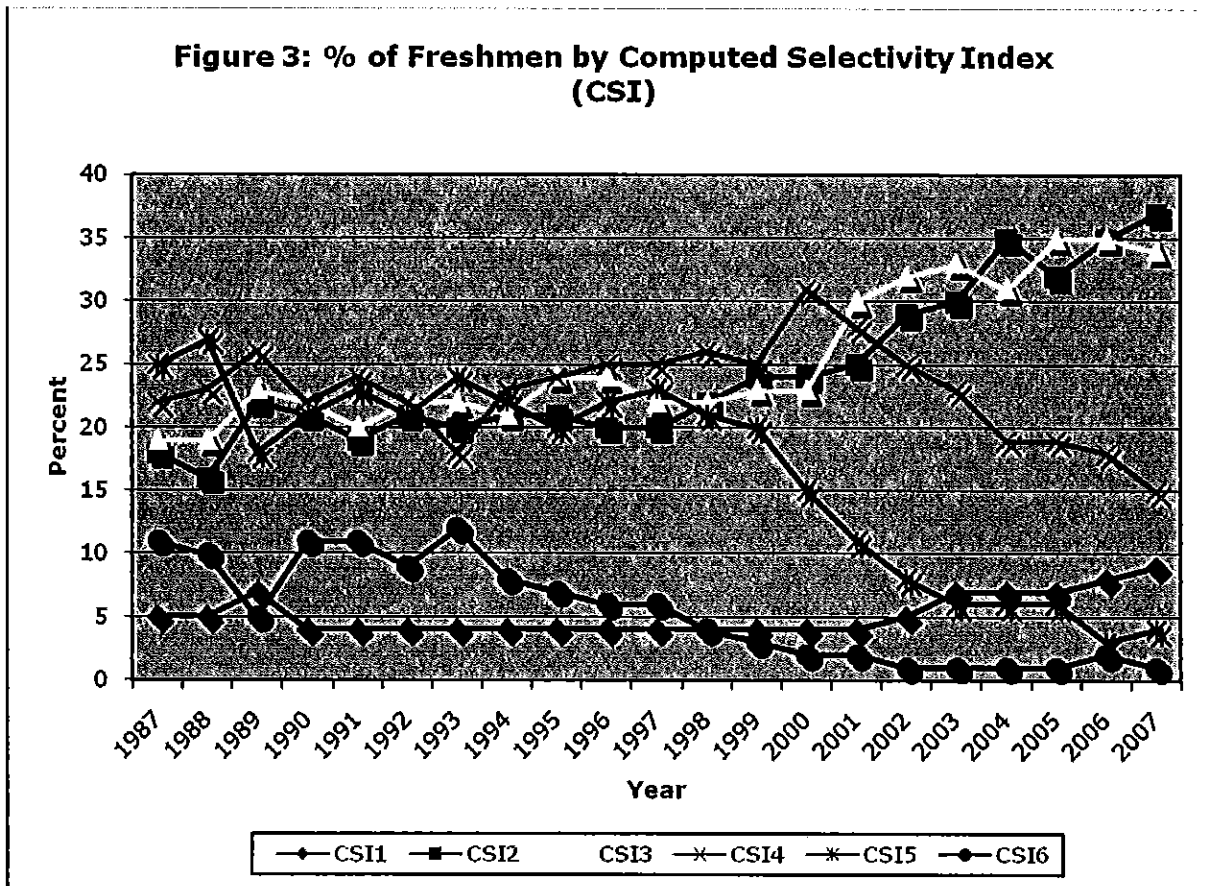
c. Class Rank

Sixty-six percent of the incoming freshmen ranked in the top 10% of their high school graduating class and the number of students ranked in the top 5% of their class has risen from 42% to 44% of the class this year. We hope that the downward trend in 2nd decile enrollments and the upward trend in 3rd decile enrollments reverse next year (Figure 2).



d. Computed Selectivity Index

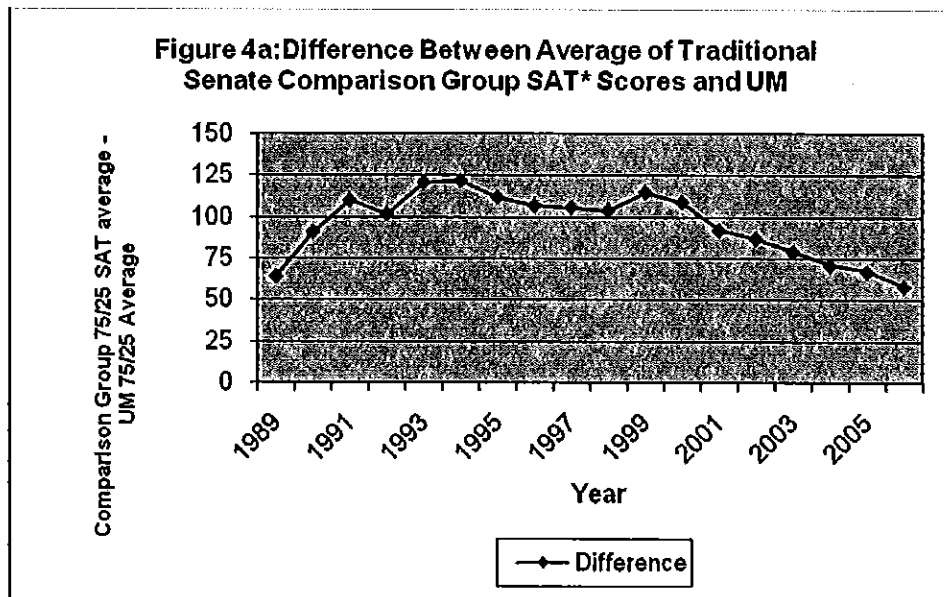
The freshman class is also evaluated by Computed Selectivity Index (CSI), which combines standardized test score and academic performance in high school. Under that measure, 46% of the new freshmen are selectivity 1 or 2, up slightly from 45% last year. Figure 3 also shows that the number of less qualified CSI 4 students continues to decrease while the number of CSI 5 and CSI 6 students, our weakest freshmen, has remained stable.



e. Comparing UM's Freshman Class to That of Other Universities

1. Comparison to the Traditional Senate List

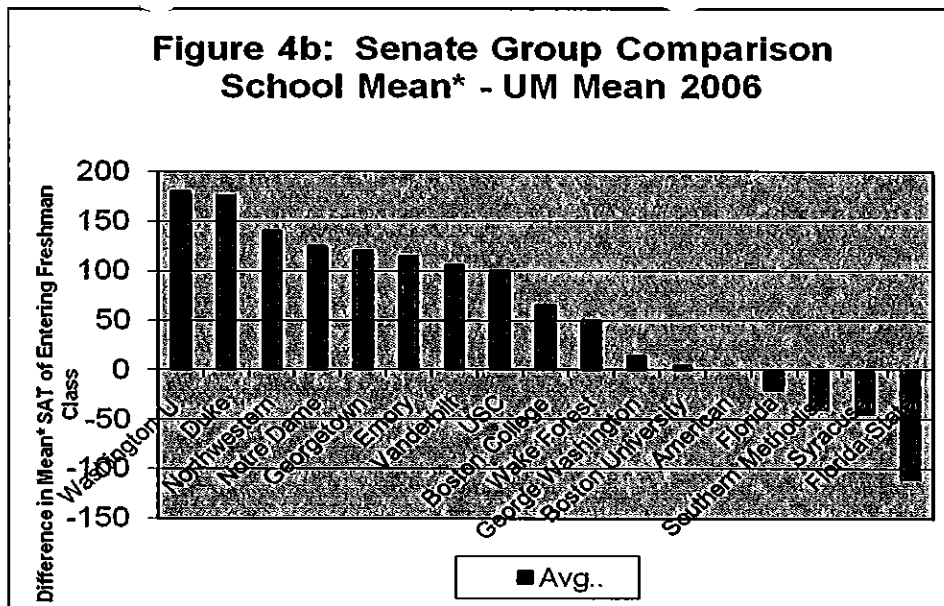
Information available in special issue of U.S. News and World Report published in the summer of 2007 allows us to compare UM's progress in enhancing student quality to progress achieved by other institutions for the 2006 entering class. U.S. News publishes the SAT score of the 75th percentile and the 25th percentile of the freshman class, rather than the mean SAT score, so this report uses the mean of those two numbers as a proxy for the average SAT score of the entering class.³ Since 1989 the Faculty Senate Academic Standards report has compared UM SAT scores to the following group of public and private institutions: American University, Boston College, Boston University, Duke, Emory, Florida, Florida State, George Washington, Georgetown, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Southern Methodist, Syracuse, USC, Vanderbilt, Wake Forest, and Washington University. Figure 4a shows the difference between the average of UM's 75th and 25th percentile SAT scores and the mean of the 75th and 25th percentile averages for the Senate comparison group. The strong trend in *relative improvement* that began in 2000 continues in 2006.



* Average of 75th Percentile and 25th Percentile Official SAT Score

Figure 4b shows the average 75th and 25th percentile SAT score less the corresponding UM value of 1270 for each school in the Senate comparison group for the year 2006. Schools are ranked in descending order so the right hand side of the chart indicates institutions where the freshman class SAT score is essentially identical to or below the University of Miami's value. In 2006, we moved ahead of the University of Florida, caught up with American University, and closed in on Boston University.

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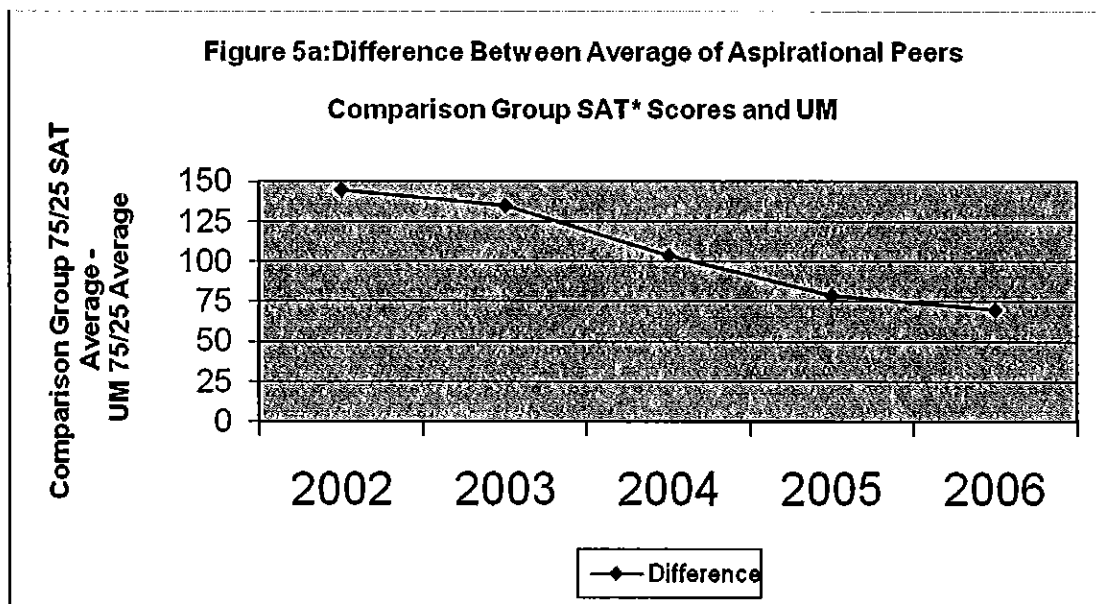


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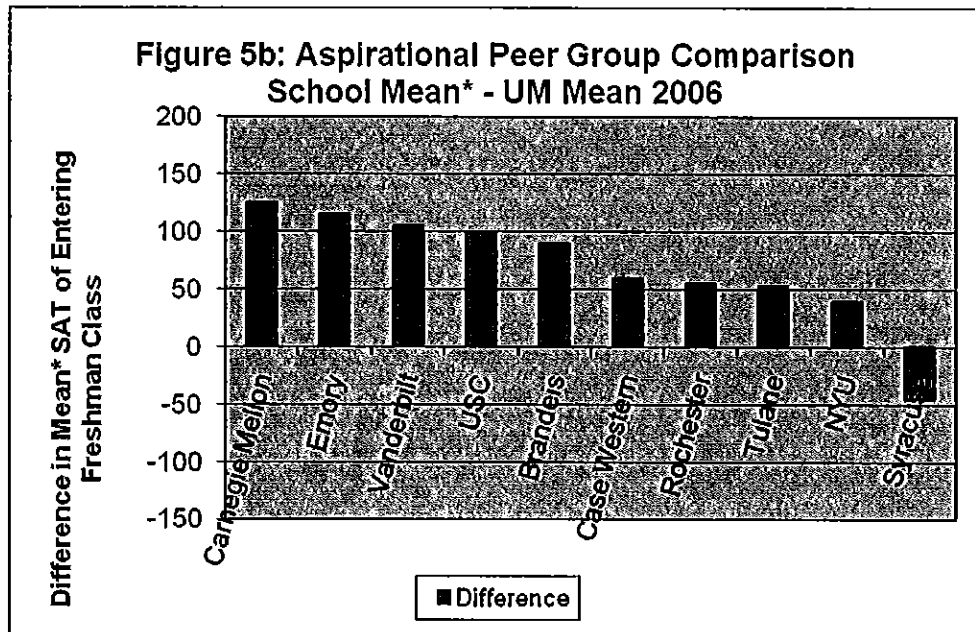
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The Provost's Office has identified a set of 10 private universities that are members of the American Association of Universities (AAU), an association we aspire to join, and rank at or above the University of Miami in the U.S. News rankings. The Faculty Senate voted to accept these 10 schools as our "aspirational peers" in the fall of 2006.

Lack of access to historical U.S. News and World Report data means that Figure 5a, below, is based on a much shorter time series than Figure 4a. Still, it is clear that the quality of the UM freshman class in the fall of 2006 continues to improve relative to that of the schools we aspire to emulate. The specific schools are Brandeis, Carnegie Mellon, Case Western, Emory, NYU, Rochester, Syracuse, Tulane, USC, and Vanderbilt. Figure 5b is similar to Figure 4b. The right-hand side of that Figure indicates that UM continues to rank above one of the aspirational peers (Syracuse).



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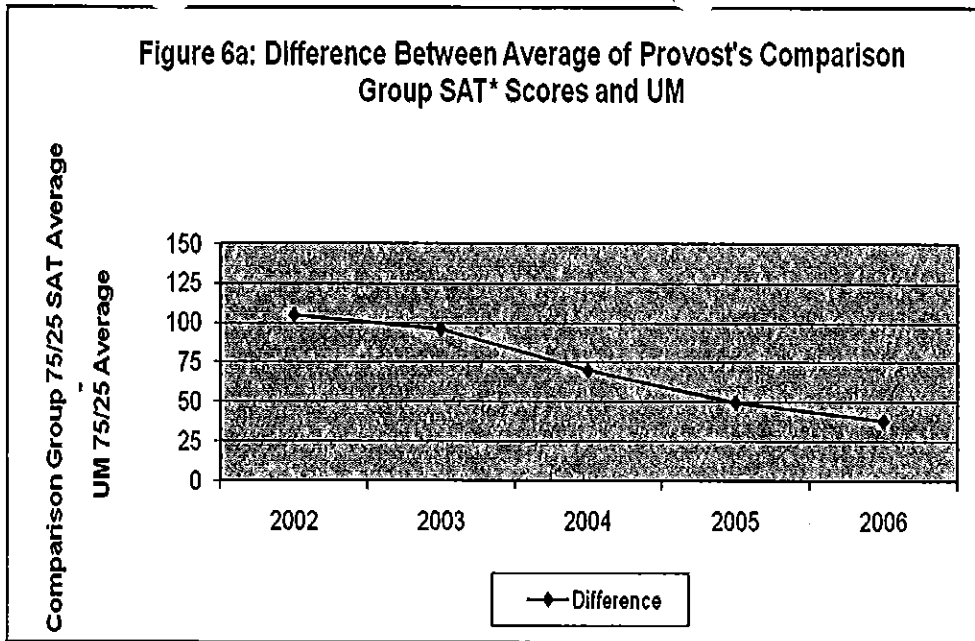
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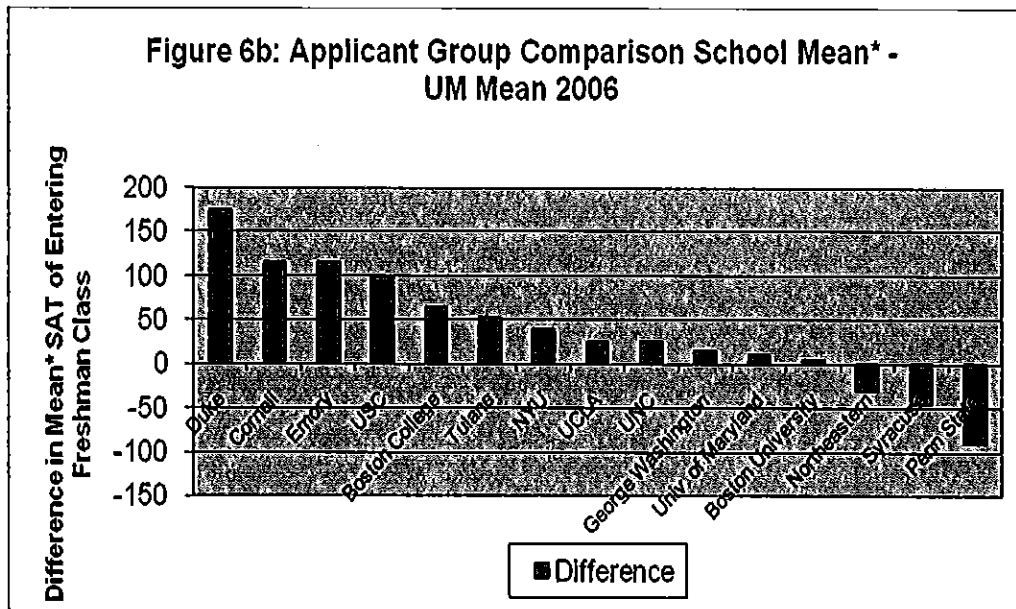
Figures 6a and 6b, which mimic 4a and 4b, are compiled for a list of 15 public and private universities that consistently appear in the universe of overlap schools.⁵ UM's official SAT score is much closer to the average of these schools and shows the same impressive improvement over the past two years. Also, Figure 6b shows that UM's freshman class is now essentially equal to or better than a third of this comparison group. Taken together, these three sets of Figures document consistent, significant improvement in the *relative* position of UM's freshman class in recent years.

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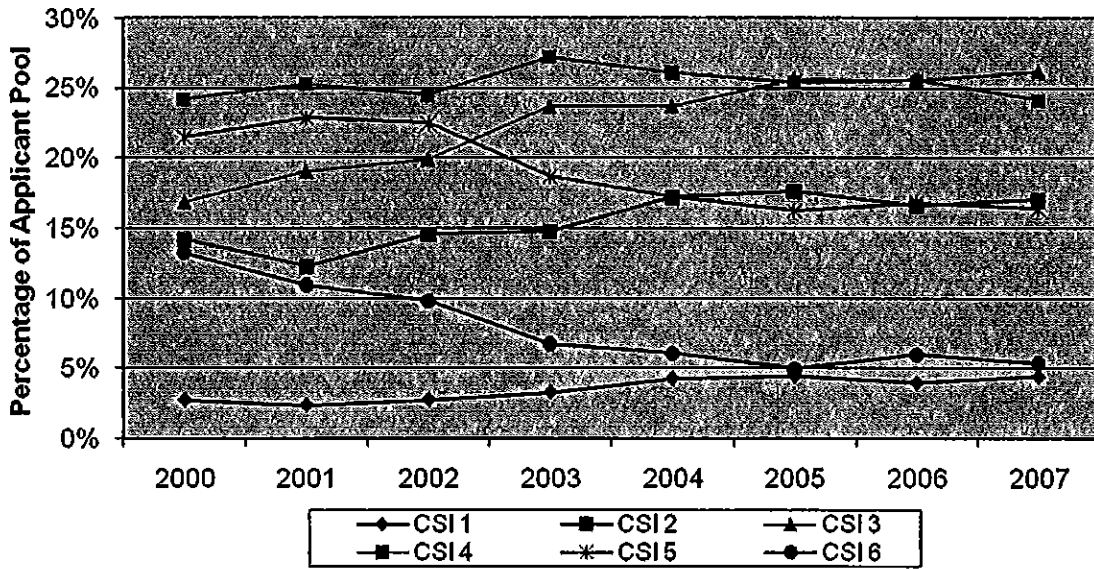


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f. Shifts in the Quality of the Applicant Pool

Our final assessment of the quality of the freshman class extends beyond students enrolled here and considers changes in the pool of applicants to the University of Miami. If the news about our improving quality has penetrated the market of potential students we should see an increase in the quality of the applicant pool. Figure 7 (on the next page) segments the completed application pool by Computed Selectivity Index (CSI). The chart shows that word about our success does appear to be affecting the application decisions of weaker prospective students. As a percentage of the applicant pool, CS5 and CS6 students have decreased by 14% since the year 2000, while the percentage of students in the top three CSIs has increased by 13%.

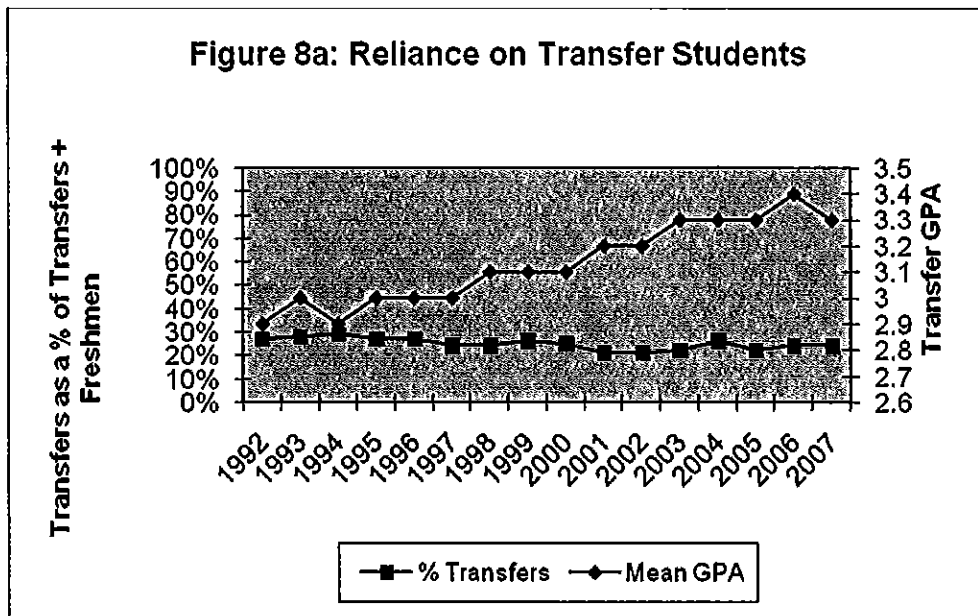
Figure 7: % of Applicant Pool by CSI '98



II. Transfer Students

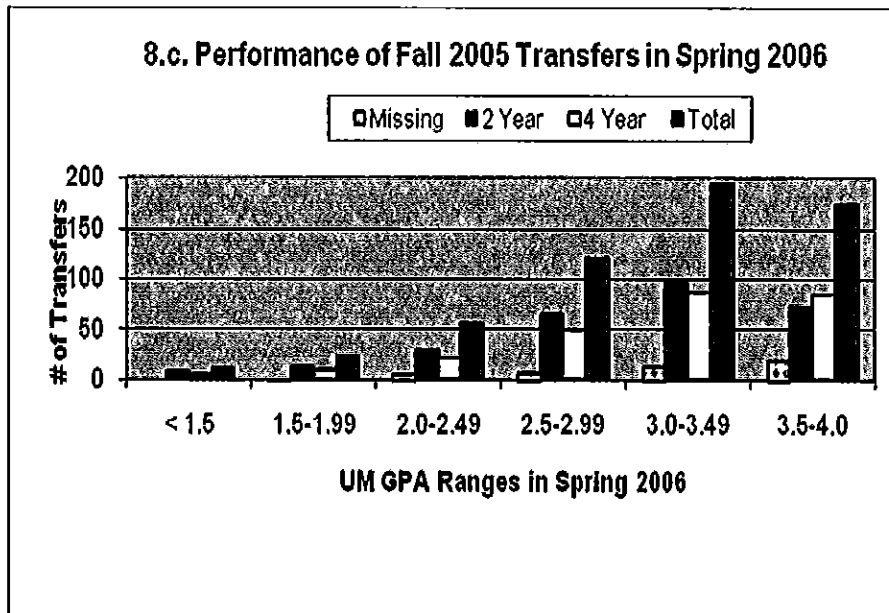
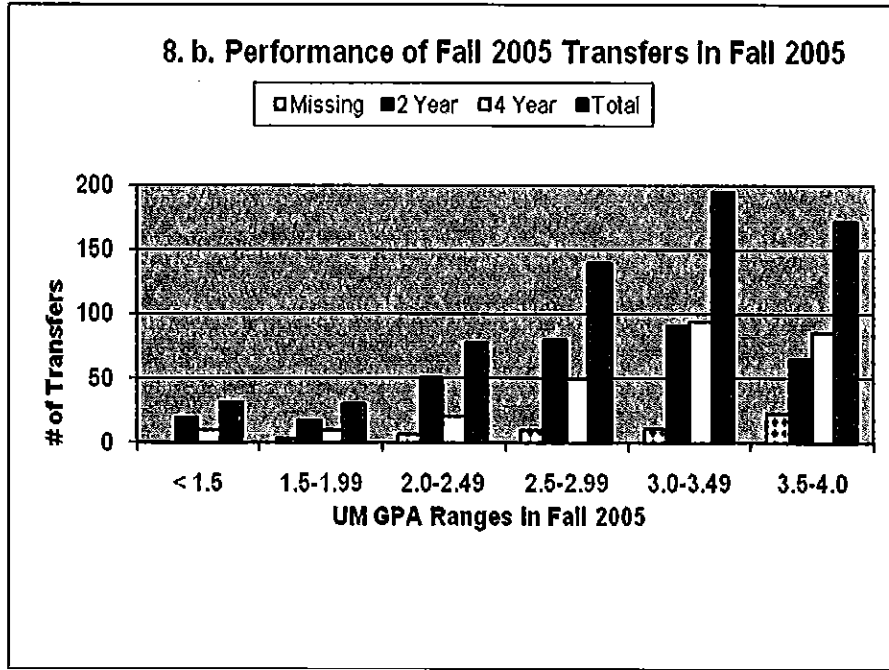
A significant percentage of the new students on campus each fall are transfer students from 2-year and 4-year American institutions and foreign schools. Figure 8a demonstrates that the percentage of transfer students has declined slightly from the early 1990's but that transfers still make up about one-fourth of the entering class. The entering GPA of the transfer students has increased significantly over the same time period.

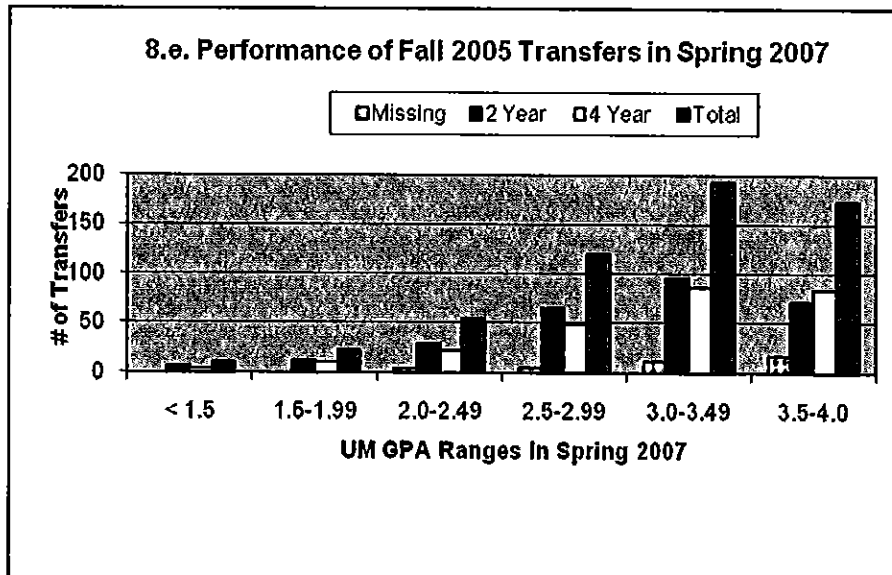
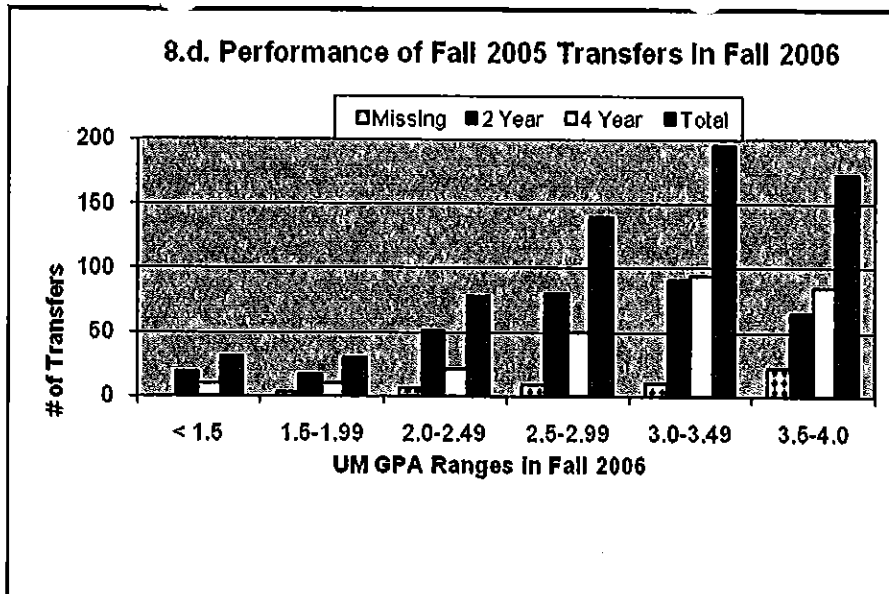
Figure 8a: Reliance on Transfer Students



A second area of concern about transfer students is how they perform once they arrive. Figures 8b to 8e track the UM GPAs of Fall 2005 transfer students during their first four semesters at UM. Data are segregated by school of origin when it is possible to do so. The charts indicate that most transfer students do reasonably well (GPAs in excess of 2.5) once they get here, and that transfers from 4-year schools tend to have higher UM GPAs than transfers from 2-year schools.

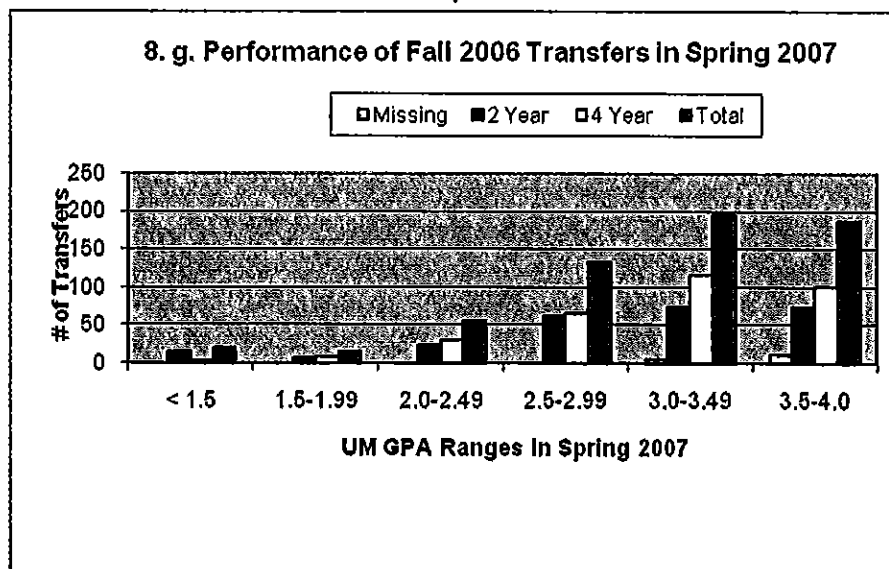
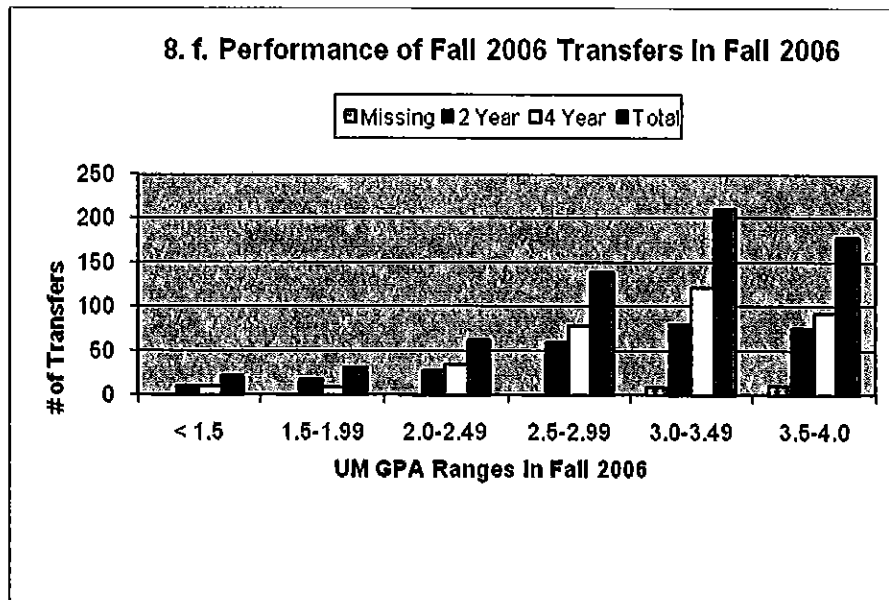
FALL 2005 TRANSFERS: 4 SEMESTER HISTORY





Figures 8f and 8g track Fall 2006 transfers during their first two semesters here and show a similar pattern, although the performance disparity between transfers from 4-year and 2-year institutions on the higher GPA side of the chart (the right-hand side) is somewhat more pronounced. This suggests that transfer students from community colleges would benefit from specific academic remediation efforts when they first arrive on campus.

FALL 2006 TRANSFERS: 2 SEMESTER HISTORY:



III. Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the available statistics, it is easy to make the case that the entering students of Fall 2007 are as good or better than the class of 2006. For the next few years, the large numbers of students reaching college age should continue to work in our favor. The recent trend towards improved student quality is likely to continue as the Administration's willingness to limit the size of the freshman class gives us the luxury of being more selective in admissions even as growth in numbers of applicants slows. It is somewhat worrisome that the improvement in quality is not as strong as in previous years by some measures given that the entering class was held to 2,000 students but the Provost's Office has been warning the committee for a few years now that continued improvements in student quality will be more difficult to achieve as the competition for the best students intensifies.

While colleges and universities across the country have been deriving similar benefits from increased application pressure, we still see incontrovertible signs that efforts to close the quality gap with the three different groups of comparison institutions have been visibly successful for the Class of 2006.

It is important to emphasize that the undeniable and commendable progress the University has made in improving the credentials of entering freshman classes over the past few years has not occurred in a vacuum. Although the mean SAT score for entering freshman is now some 92 points higher than it was in 1989, the gap in this measurement of the academic credentials between the average for freshman entering the University of Miami and for those entering universities in the longtime comparison group has just dropped below the 1989 level, for the first time in 18 years. The difference between the UM Mean SAT and that of our longest-followed comparison group declined by 6 points last year, a trend we hope will continue.

More encouraging news comes from evidence in this report that UM continues to catch up to a group of 10 private universities ranked above us in the U. S. News survey (our "aspirational peers") and to a group of 15 private institutions that prospective applicants see as our competition (our "overlap" schools). Furthermore, the quality of transfer students enrolling here is steady in terms of entering GPA, and those students perform acceptably well once they arrive. Nonetheless, continued improvement in the average SAT and ACT score for entering freshman is needed if UM is to become comparable to schools we aim to emulate in terms of student quality.

The committee believes that this administration is committed to moving the quality of the entering class of University of Miami freshman up to a level commensurate with that of our aspirational peers as quickly as is financially possible. Measurable progress has been made, especially in the last three classes. With that in mind, the committee recommends an extension of last year's goal.⁶ **As in the spring of 2007, we endorse the goal of improvement of at least 35 points in mean SAT scores over the next four years (from 1275 to 1310) and a willingness to commit to a long-term target of mean SAT scores at 1310 or above.**

⁶ The 2006 report recommended a 40 point improvement, (from 1269 to 1310), in four years.

General Welfare Committee
March 19, 2008
3:30 p.m.
(School of Law Library-Conference Room, 4th floor)

1. Chair's remarks (3:30)
2. # Review of draft Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2008 (3:35)
3. # Miami Institute for Human Genomics and Component Center Proposals – J. McCafferty-Cepero (3:40)
4. # Proposal for a Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science – H. Kocak (3:55)
5. ## Academic Standards Committee Undergraduate Admission Report – (4:10)
6. ## Proposal Regarding Latin Honors – (4:25)
7. Outstanding Teaching Award Committee Recommendation – E. Clasby (4:40)
8. # Request for Guidance Concerning Doctoral Study in Their Home Department/School by Masters-Prepared Faculty in Physical Therapy and Nursing – S. Hayes, V. Mitrani (4:50)
9. # Proposal for a New Degree Program, the Master in Real Estate Development and Urbanism (MRED&U) – C. Bohl, D. Hector (5:20)
10. # Move of Masters of Public Administration from the School of Business Administration to the College of Arts and Sciences – Note: a memo from the Dean of Arts and Sciences will be forthcoming - (5:35)
11. # Senate Apportionment - (5:40)

related material included

materials will be sent separately

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS REPORT, 2007 - 2008

Annual Report on Admissions and Undergraduate Student Quality Prepared by the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Standards¹

Purpose of this Report: To provide a Faculty Senate sponsored assessment of the quality of new students enrolled in Fall 2007.

Summary

By all standard measures, the University of Miami entering class of 2007 is one of the top freshman classes in UM history. A total of 66% of new freshmen graduated in the top decile of their high school class, and the mean SAT scores rose by 6 points, to 1275, which is an all-time high. Information in this report shows that the administration's commitment to heightened selectivity and the hard work of enrollment and admissions staff have combined to continue to enhance the quality of the applicant pool. Even more encouraging news is that the quality gap between UM and institutions in three important comparison groups continues to close dramatically, a trend that we hope will continue. This report also contains evidence that transfer students are performing acceptably well once they arrive on campus, although transfers from two-year institutions may benefit from specific academic support when they first arrive on campus.

Academic Quality of Newly Enrolled Students, Fall 2007

The format of the report is similar to that used in last year.

I. *The Freshman Class*

a. Overview

The news is excellent regarding the freshman class that entered the University in Fall 2007. The incoming class for the past fall consists of a final total of 1,991 freshmen, (resulting from 19,809 initial applications, or 16,131 completed applications), and 626 transfers, (resulting from 3,565 initial applications and 1,909 completed applications). The number of applications in both categories increased. Freshmen applications rose by almost 800, the largest increase since 2004, but transfer applications rose at a somewhat slower rate than in recent years.

b. Official SAT and ACT Scores

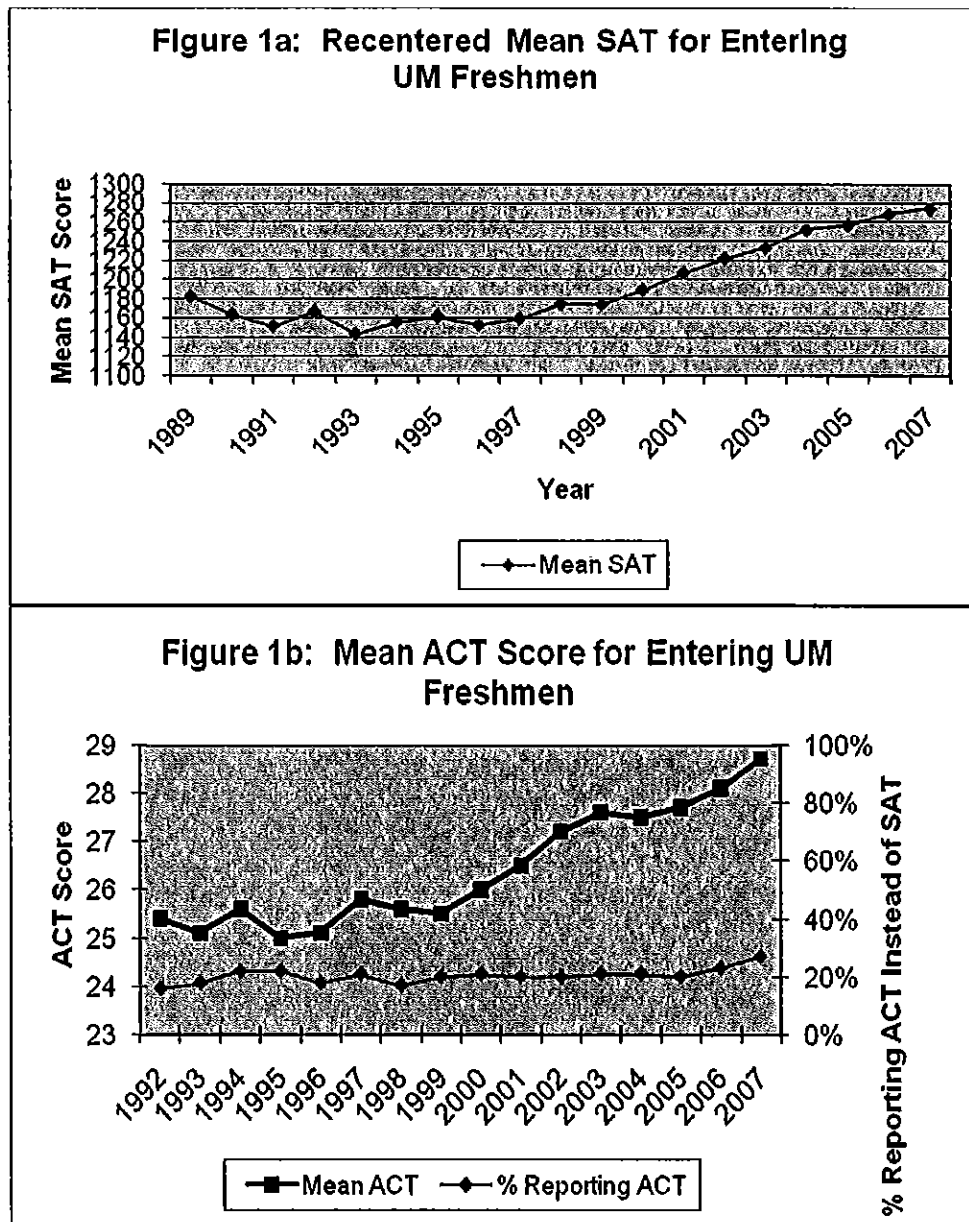
The average SAT score of the entering freshmen continues to improve, rising 6 points from last year to a level of 1275.

Since 2004, the UM admissions office (and other institutions we compete with) has used ACT scores for students whose ACT scores are better than their SAT scores.² At this point the ACT score is the guiding metric for more than one-quarter of the entering class. SAT scores are displayed in Figure 1a on the next page, while ACT scores and the percentage of the class accepted using that

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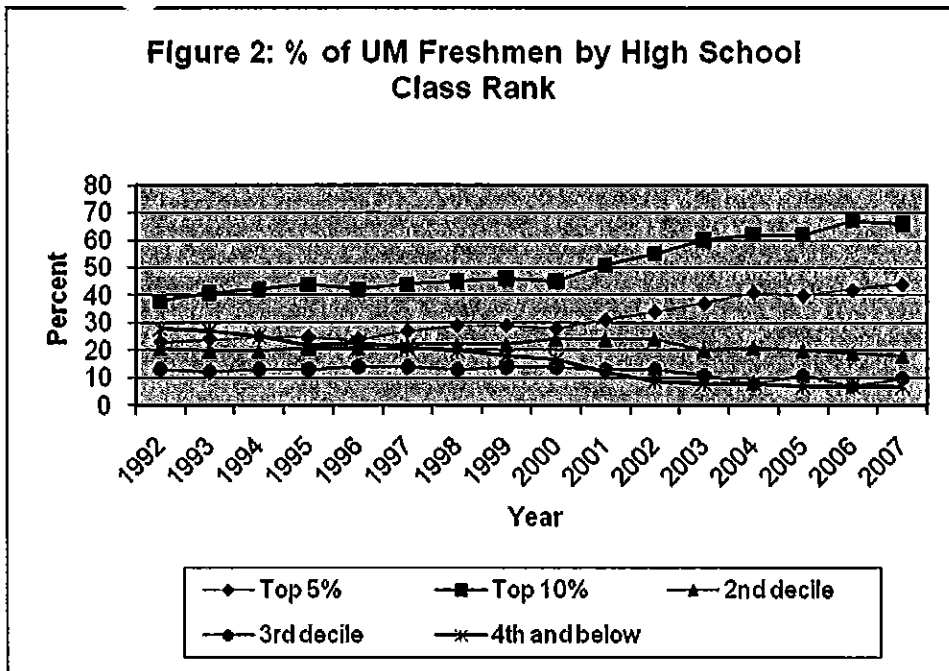
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score appear in Figure 1b. Both score averages exhibit a significant increasing trend although the rate of increase in SAT improvement has slowed somewhat. The Provost's office predicted this result last year, given that competition for the best students increases dramatically as a school rises through the ranks of institutions. From this perspective we should be glad that more and more applicants are being admitted via an ACT score since we continue to show dramatic improvement on that metric.



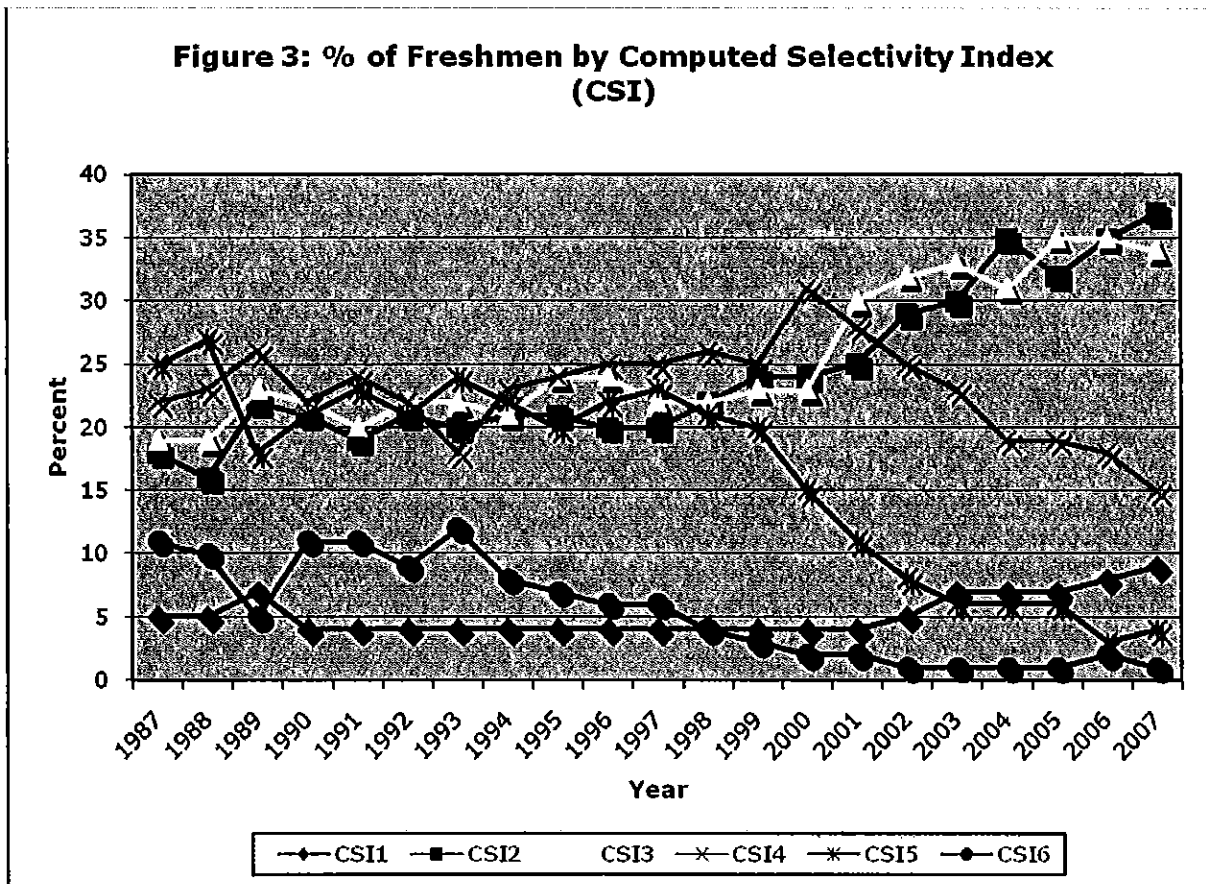
c. Class Rank

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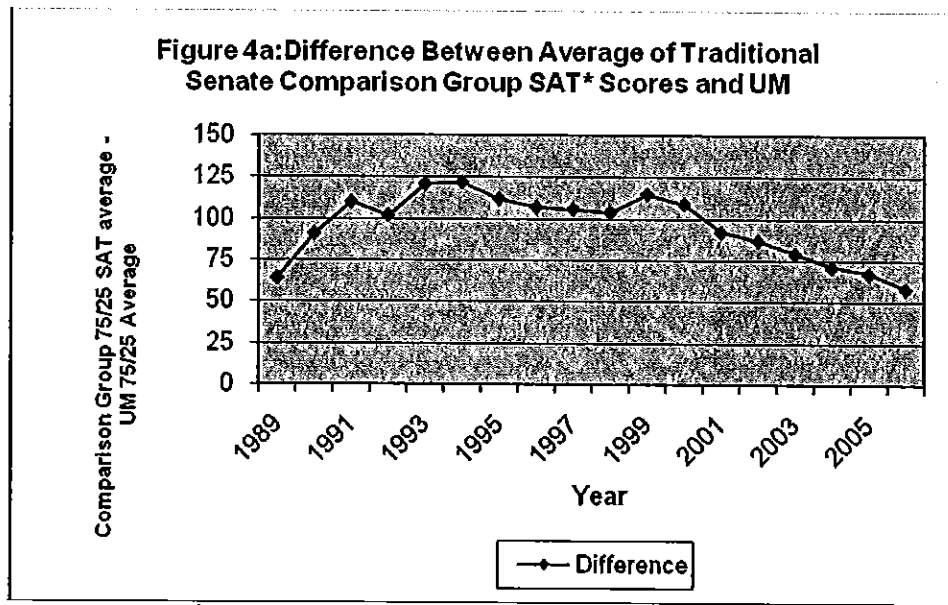
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1. Comparison to the Traditional Senate List

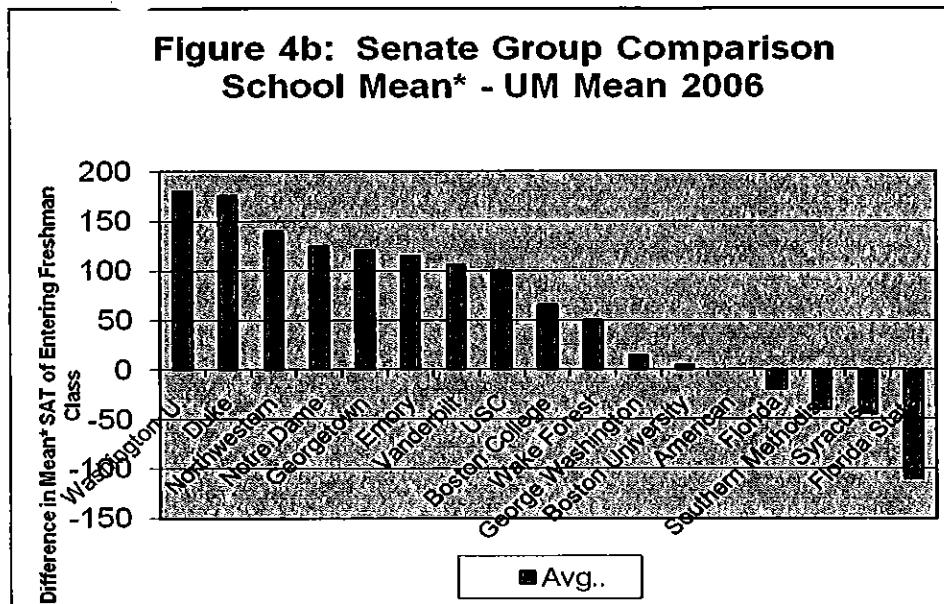
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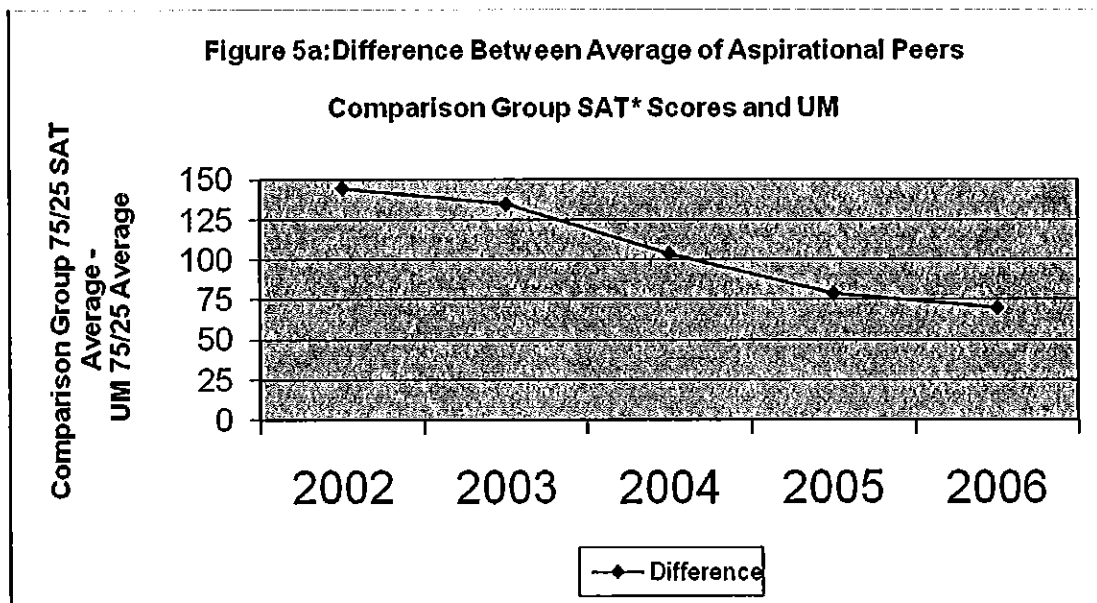


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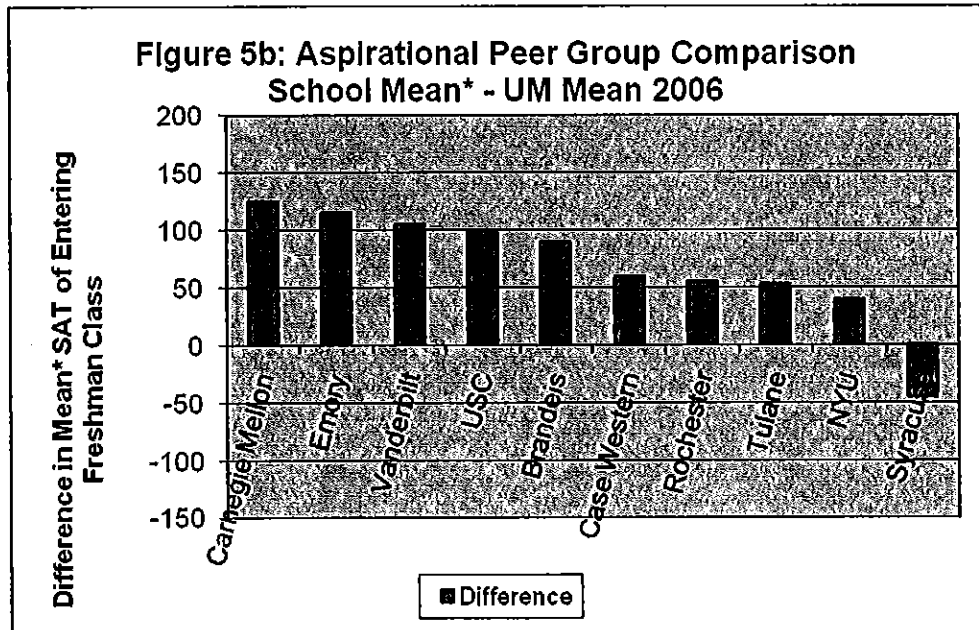
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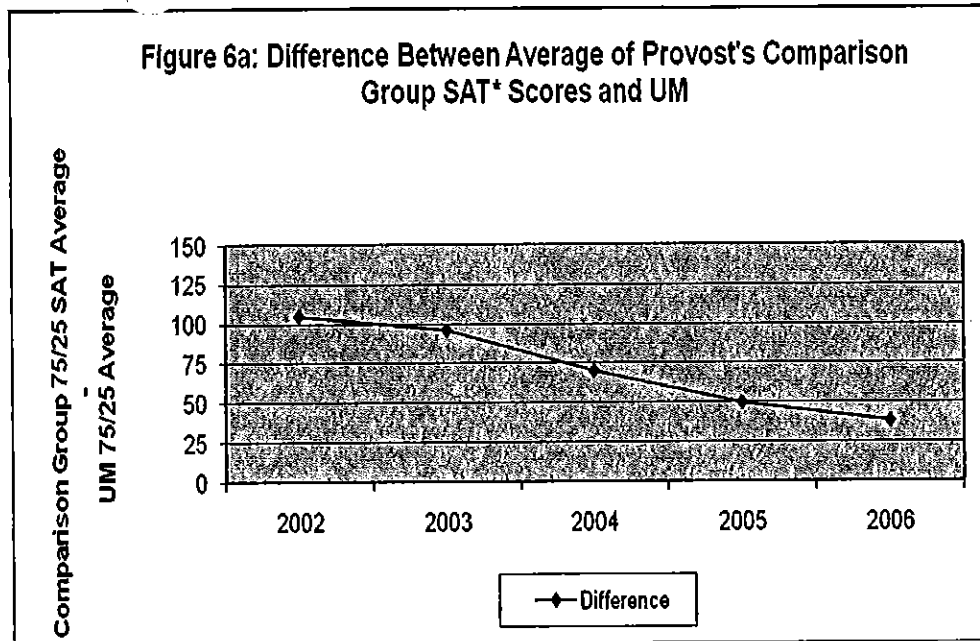
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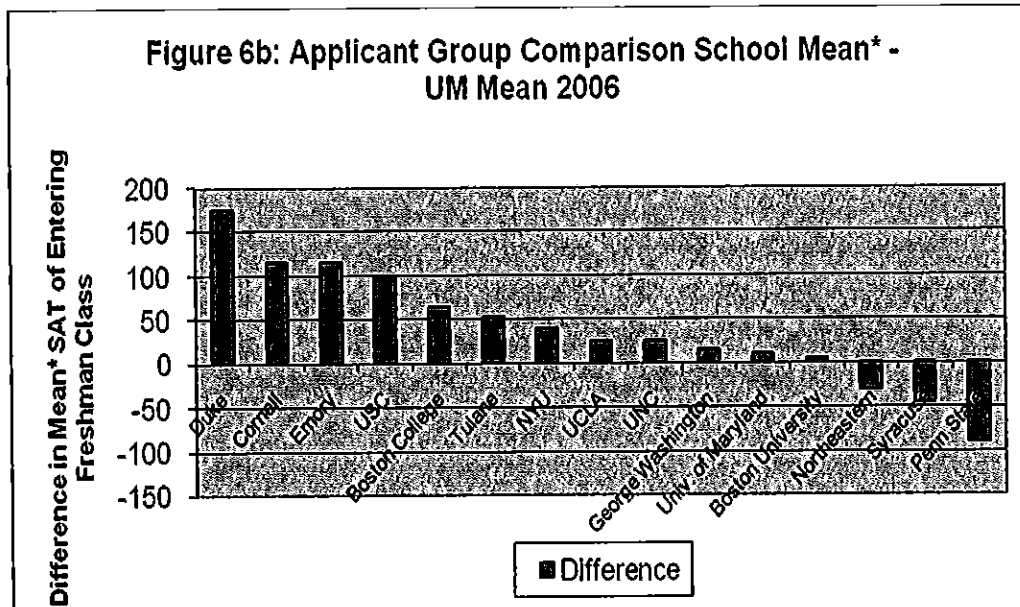
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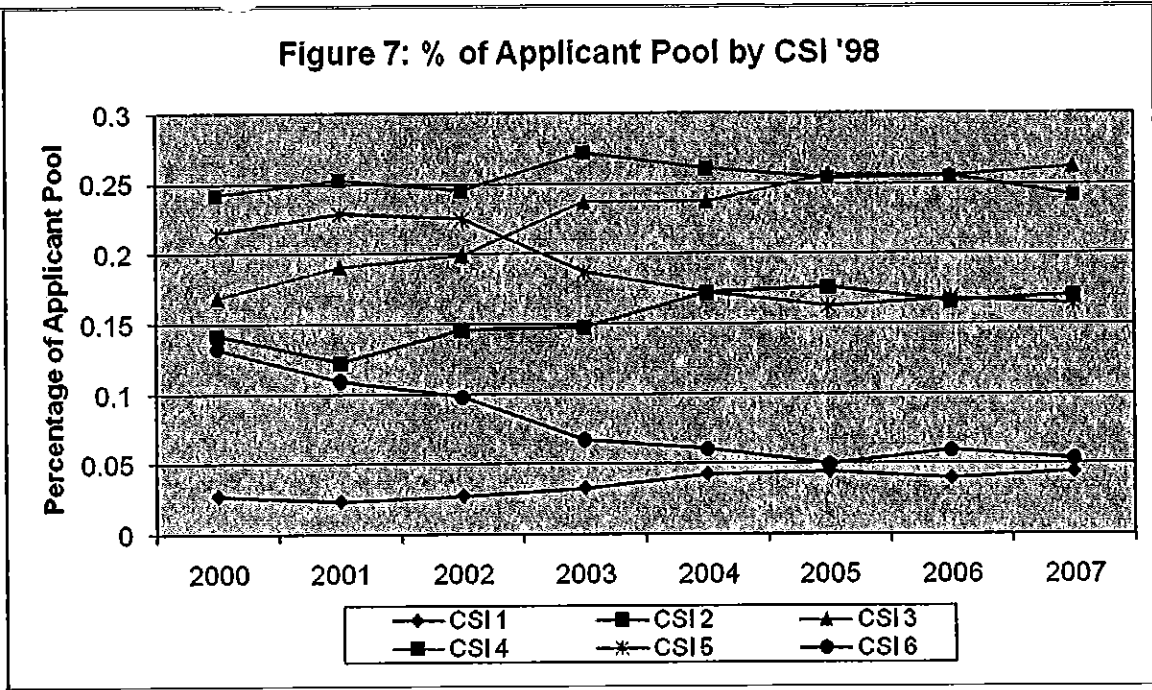
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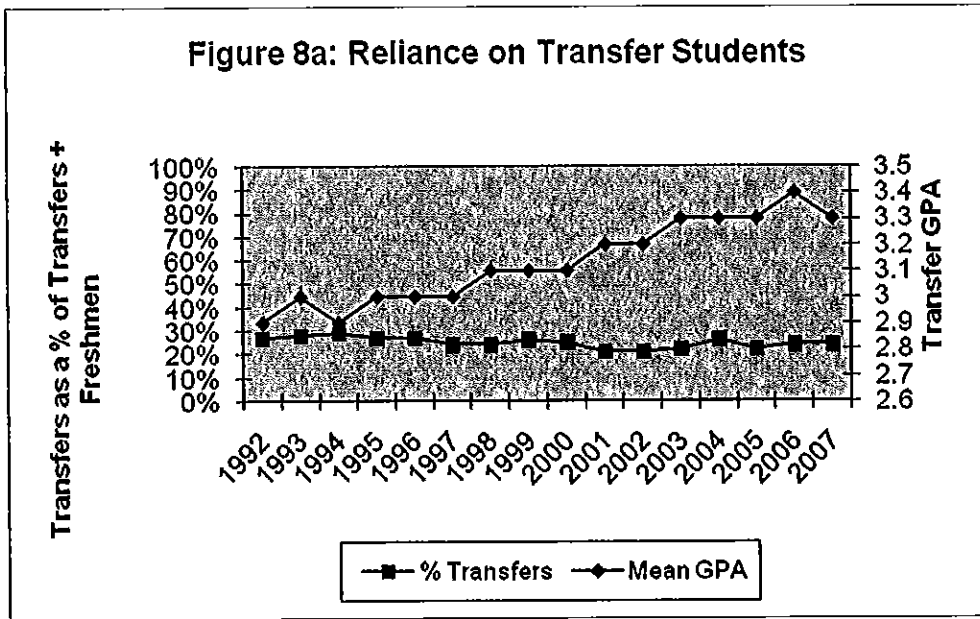
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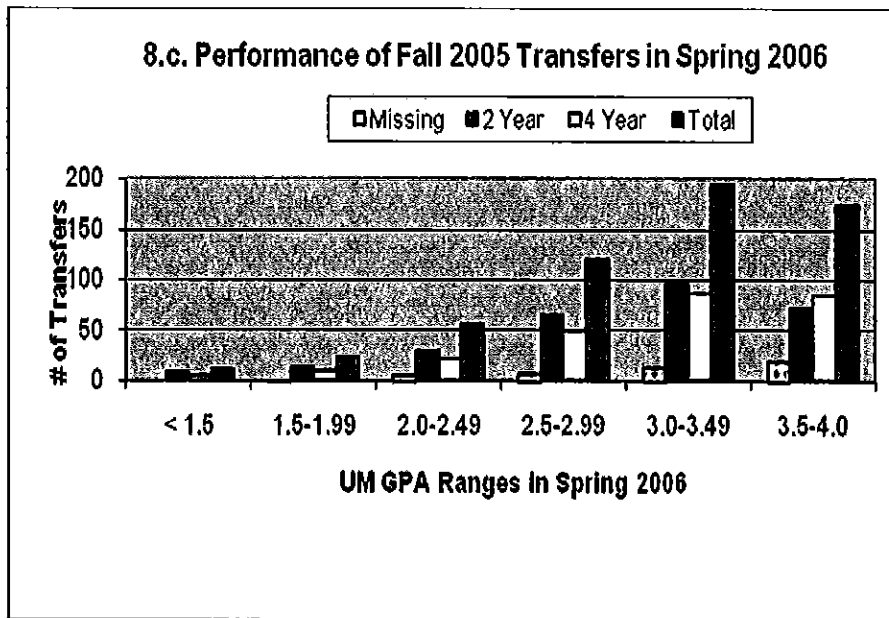
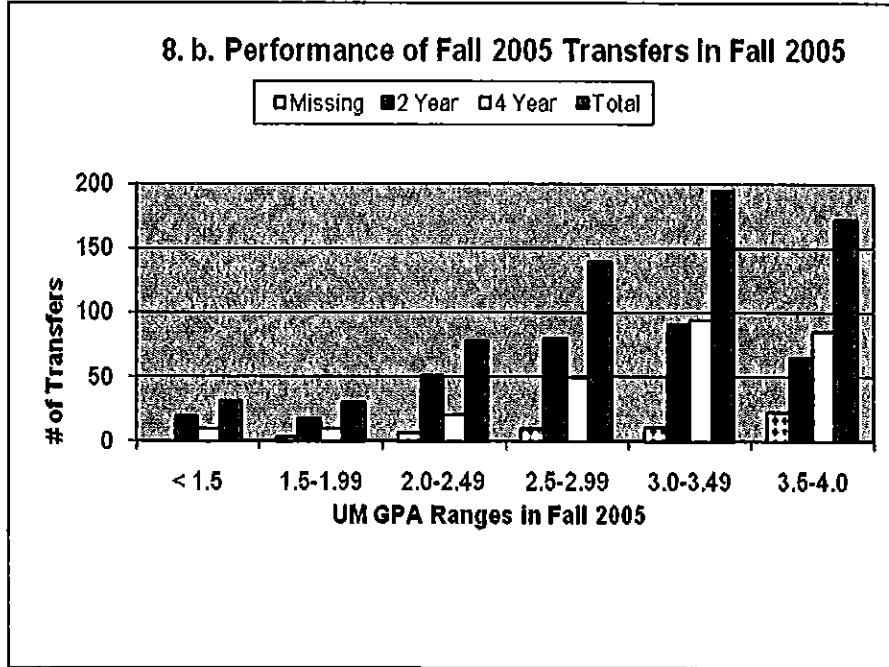
II. Transfer Students

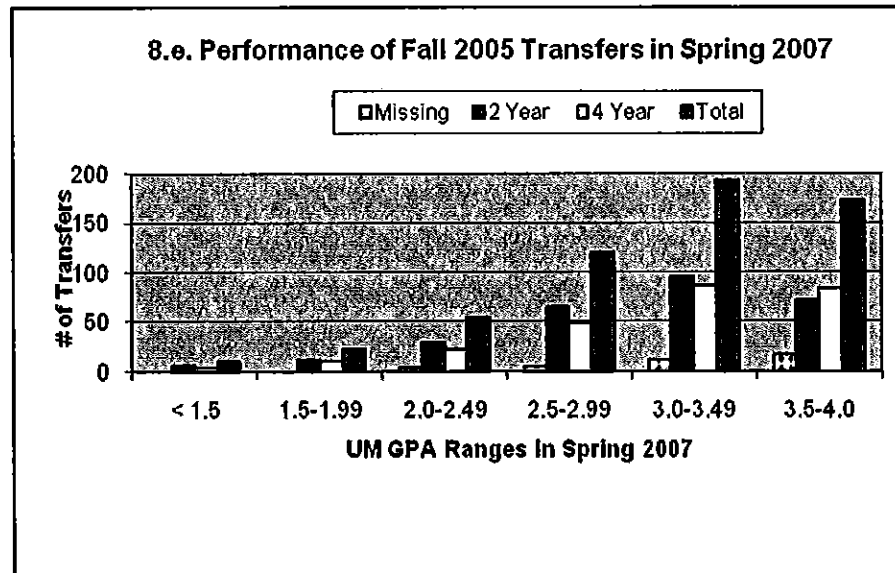
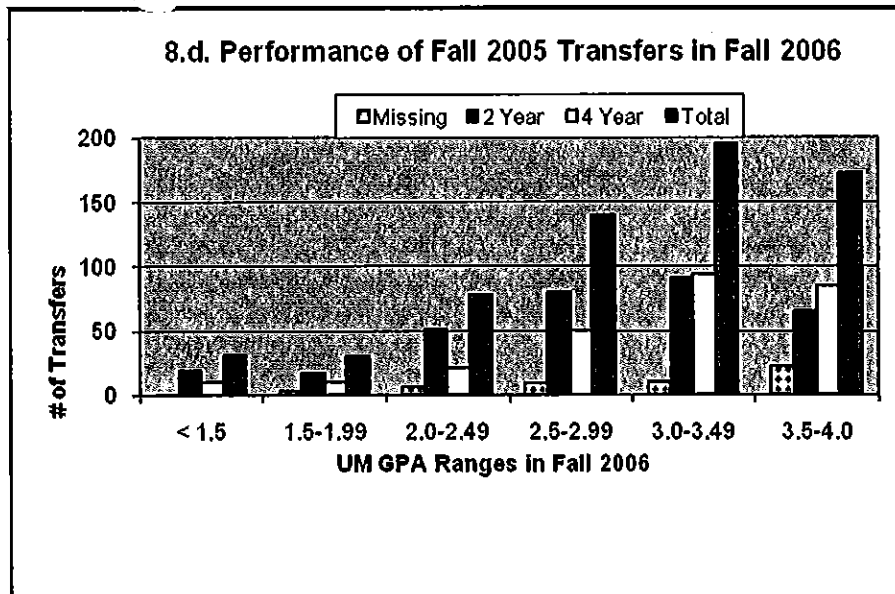
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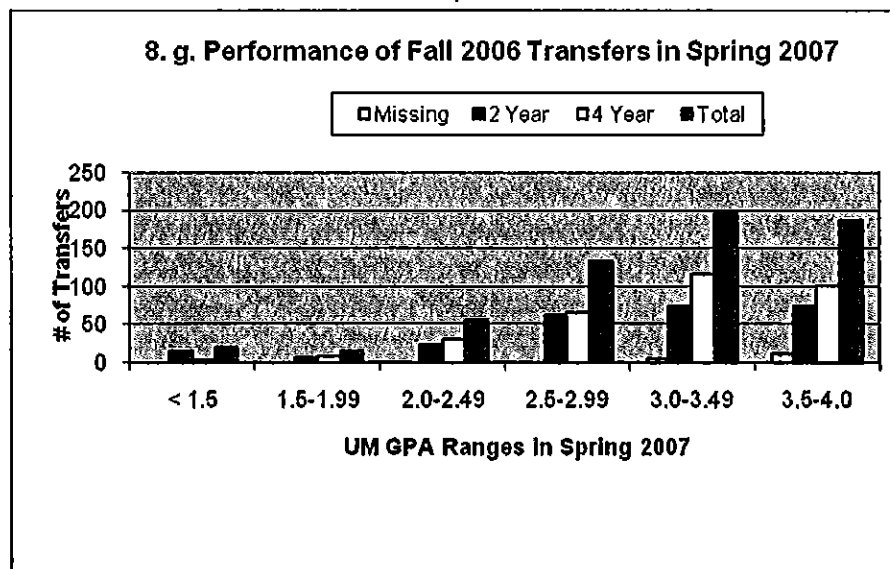
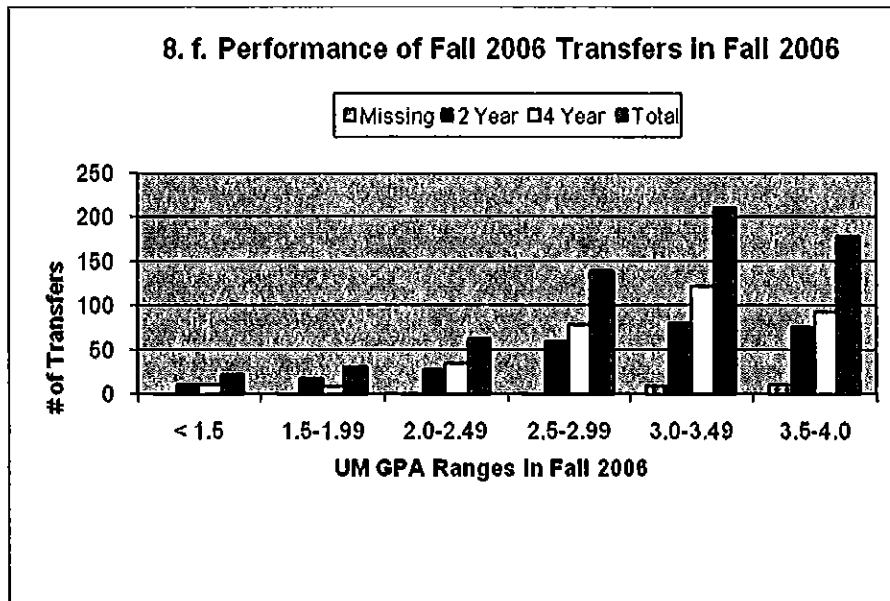
FALL 2005 TRANSFERS: 4 SEMESTER HISTORY





Figures 8f and 8g track Fall 2006 transfers during their first two semesters here and show a similar pattern, although the performance disparity between transfers from 4-year and 2-year institutions on the higher GPA side of the chart (the right-hand side) is somewhat more pronounced. This suggests that transfer students from community colleges would benefit from specific academic remediation efforts when they first arrive on campus.

FALL 2006 TRANSFERS: 2 SEMESTER HISTORY:



III. Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the available statistics, it is easy to make the case that the entering students of Fall 2007 are as good or better than the class of 2006. For the next few years, the large numbers of students reaching college age should continue to work in our favor. The recent trend towards improved student quality is likely to continue as the Administration's willingness to limit the size of the freshman class gives us the luxury of being more selective in admissions even as growth in numbers of applicants slows. It is somewhat worrisome that the improvement in quality is not as strong as in previous years by some measures given that the entering class was held to 2,000 students but the Provost's Office has been warning the committee for a few years now that continued improvements in student quality will be more difficult to achieve as the competition for the best students intensifies.

While colleges and universities across the country have been deriving similar benefits from increased application pressure, we still see incontrovertible signs that efforts to close the quality gap with the three different groups of comparison institutions have been visibly successful for the Class of 2006.

It is important to emphasize that the undeniable and commendable progress the University has made in improving the credentials of entering freshman classes over the past few years has not occurred in a vacuum. Although the mean SAT score for entering freshman is now some 92 points higher than it was in 1989, the gap in this measurement of the academic credentials between the average for freshman entering the University of Miami and for those entering universities in the longtime comparison group has just dropped below the 1989 level, for the first time in 18 years. The difference between the UM Mean SAT and that of our longest-followed comparison group declined by 6 points last year, a trend we hope will continue.

More encouraging news comes from evidence in this report that UM continues to catch up to a group of 10 private universities ranked above us in the U. S. News survey (our "aspirational peers") and to a group of 15 private institutions that prospective applicants see as our competition (our "overlap" schools). Furthermore, the quality of transfer students enrolling here is steady in terms of entering GPA, and those students perform acceptably well once they arrive. Nonetheless, continued improvement in the average SAT and ACT score for entering freshman is needed if UM is to become comparable to schools we aim to emulate in terms of student quality.

The committee believes that this administration is committed to moving the quality of the entering class of University of Miami freshman up to a level commensurate with that of our aspirational peers as quickly as is financially possible. Measurable progress has been made, especially in the last three classes. With that in mind, the committee recommends an extension of last year's goal.⁶ **As in the spring of 2007, we endorse the goal of improvement of at least 35 points in mean SAT scores over the next four years (from 1275 to 1310) and a willingness to commit to a long-term target of mean SAT scores at 1310 or above.**

⁶ The 2006 report recommended a 40 point improvement, (from 1269 to 1310), in four years.

Faculty Senate Office

leg - misc:

From: Sapp, Stephen [ssapp@miami.edu]
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2008 3:35 PM
To: Faculty Senate Office
Subject: RE: Legislation #2007-42-Academic Standards Undergrad admissions report

I understand your logic, but I just don't see "endorsing" a goal that the administration has put forward and that the Provost says every time he talks about improving student quality is what we're shooting for demands any kind of formal response from her.

To indicate the seriousness with which DES is taking this matter, though, Rebecca Fox took me aside after commencement to tell me that the President has assigned her to read completely every communication DES receives from the Senate to make sure she is responding appropriately. Rebecca told me *three* different times (and then *asked* me if I understood) that the President is very concerned about what happened with these two items and does not ever want the Senate to think she is not responding to something we expect her to. It's hard to read that as anything other than a genuine desire to be responsive to us.

From: Faculty Senate Office [mailto:facsen@miami.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 4:57 PM
To: Sapp, Stephen
Subject: RE: Legislation #2007-42-Academic Standards Undergrad admissions report

I see your point that there is nothing for her to respond to, but I also hear voices that would say that she should respond to ANYTHING we send her, and that "we have to push the admin for answers - we cannot be ignored". I was trying to think of ways to hedge those types of comments.

I thought what the report was referring to - "**we endorse the goal of improvement of at least 35 points in mean SAT scores over the next four years**" - was the committee's previous recommendation, therefore in theory, it was a recommendation and needed a response. The footnote didn't come through in the email but it said "⁽¹⁾ The 2006 report recommended a 40 point improvement, (from 1269 to 1310), in four years."

-Robyn

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From: Sapp, Stephen [mailto:ssapp@miami.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 4:33 PM
To: Faculty Senate Office
Subject: RE: Legislation #2007-42-Academic Standards Undergrad admissions report

I agree with the second part, but my point was that there is nothing for her to respond to in this particular report, just our statement that we endorse the administration's announced goal. I'm not sure what her response to that would be, except maybe to say, "Thank you for agreeing with what we want to do"!

Of course, she could always simply "acknowledge receipt" of the report. At least that way we can pretend she actually looked at it!

From: Faculty Senate Office [mailto:facsen@miami.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 3:38 PM
To: Sapp, Stephen
Subject: RE: Legislation #2007-42-Academic Standards Undergrad admissions report

That's one way, but there's still a change that there could be an issue that she needs to respond – just for the sake of responding. Another idea - announce that it was discussed with her, and in the future D-type legislation will be worded differently when we send it to her, so she knows to respond.

-Robyn

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From: Sapp, Stephen [mailto:ssapp@miami.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 3:33 PM
To: Faculty Senate Office
Subject: RE: Legislation #2007-42-Academic Standards Undergrad admissions report

Thanks. This is as close to a recommendation as the report contains, but again I see why DES did not feel the need to respond formally.

Perhaps we should announce to the Senate for the sake of those who raised the question that this report did not contain any recs?

From: Faculty Senate Office [mailto:facsen@miami.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, December 17, 2008 3:17 PM
To: Sapp, Stephen
Subject: Legislation #2007-42-Academic Standards Undergrad admissions report

As you requested this morning, here are the recommendations from Legislation #2007-42(B)-Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee Report on Undergraduate Admissions.

“Conclusions and Recommendations

... The committee believes that this administration is committed to moving the quality of the entering class of University of Miami freshman up to a level commensurate with that of our aspirational peers as quickly as is financially possible. Measurable progress has been made, especially in the last three classes. With that in mind, the committee recommends an extension of last year's goal.^[1] **As in the spring of 2007, we endorse the goal of improvement of at least 35 points in mean SAT scores over the next four years (from 1275 to 1310) and a willingness to commit to a long-term target of mean SAT scores at 1310 or above.”**

-Robyn

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¹⁴ The 2006 report recommended a 40 point improvement, (from 1269 to 1310), in four years.

Faculty Senate Office

From: Faculty Senate Office
Sent: Tuesday, April 01, 2008 4:07 PM
To: Birnbach, David J; Heuson, Andrea J
Cc: Cantrell, Robert Stephen
Subject: Legislation #2007-42
Attachments: 2007-42D.pdf

Attached is your copy of Legislation #2007-42(D) - Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee Report on Undergraduate Admissions which was sent to the President for her information.

This legislation does not require the President's approval and is final as shown.

Regards,
Robyn Hardeman

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