



RESOLUTION

amending

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR GENERAL FUND STUDENTS

CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

April 1, 2004

WHEREAS, Effective college admissions decisions are generally based on a combination of measures that indicate an applicant's academic potential during the critical first year, and

WHEREAS, Those measures typically include indications of high school achievement in college preparatory courses and rank-in-class, as well as the results of standardized admission tests, and

WHEREAS, The prominent standardized admissions test most often taken by freshmen applicants to the Connecticut State University System, is the College Board's SAT, followed by the lesser used but nonetheless still appropriate test of the American College Testing (ACT) Program, and

WHEREAS, The College Board's SAT is slated to undergo a major revision effective March 2005 when a compulsory new writing section will be added to the test, and

WHEREAS, The ACT will not add a compulsory writing assessment, but offers an optional writing supplement to the test, and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System is committed to ensuring equity among test-takers, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Board Resolution #96-69 be amended to include the following requirements:

Effective with the March 2005 inauguration of the new SAT, all freshmen applicants will be required to submit a standardized writing sample with their admissions tests - either the compulsory writing sample incorporated in the new SAT or the optional writing sample offered by the ACT program.

A Certified True Copy:

William J. Cibes, Jr., Chancellor

ITEM

Amending the Undergraduate Admissions Policy for General Fund Students

BACKGROUND

Board Resolution #96-69 pertains to the requirements for admission consideration of freshman applicants to Central, Eastern, Southern, and Western Connecticut State Universities. Specifically, it indicates that such applicants must submit secondary school transcripts with an estimate of the applicant's class rank, and the "results of the Scholastic Aptitude Test," the College Board's SAT. The policy also allows for the submission of the results "of equivalent [standardized admission] tests" in lieu of the SAT.

Beginning March 2005, the SAT will be revised significantly, both in terms of content of the current verbal and mathematical sections, and in terms of the addition of a third new section – the writing sample. Thus, for the fall 2006 entering class, first time freshman applicants will submit composite SAT scores that range from 600 to 2400 points on three major sections (200 to 800 per section) rather than the two current sections whose composite scores range from 400 to 1600 total. The alternate standardized test taken by a small number of freshman applicants to CSU – the test given by the American College Testing (ACT) Program – will continue to measure only two dimensions, verbal and mathematical skills. However, the ACT also tests for writing through a separate and optional writing assessment.

ANALYSIS

The vast majority of freshman applicants for admission to our universities, indeed the vast majority of applicants seeking admission to four-year colleges and universities throughout the Northeast, takes the SAT as rather than the ACT. This admissions test is used more in the Midwest. Nevertheless, the ACT is deemed to be a helpful alternate measure.

Each of the Universities that comprise the CSU System, require the SAT for first time freshman applicants, but allow for the submission of ACT scores in lieu of the SAT, often based on the recommendation of the high school counselor. Thus, the use of this alternate test without appropriate provisions may raise an issue of equity between the test-takers that submit SAT scores with the compulsory writing sample, and test-takers that submit ACT scores without making provisions for a writing sample.

CSU's admission officers uniformly wish to continue to allow for the submission of ACT scores on a limited basis, but also are concerned about equity in college admissions testing. Accordingly, they ask that the Board adopt a policy employed by many colleges and universities faced with this dilemma: to mandate the submission of a writing sample, regardless of which test is taken –the SAT with its mandatory writing sample beginning March 2005, or the ACT with optional writing assessment.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the amendment to the admission policies that requires the submission of a writing sample as part of any standardized test submission for freshman applicants effective for the March 2005 administration of the new SAT (for fall 2006 applicants).