

Agenda Item

UTC Faculty Senate: 4/15/21

Proposed by Aaron Shaheen, chair of the Undergraduate Admission Committee, on behalf of Yancy Freeman and Lee Pierce in the Vice-Chancellor's Office for Student Enrollment.

ACT/SAT Test Optional Proposal

As a result of the Covid pandemic, UTC has not required a standardized test score to be admitted as long as applicants have at least a 3.0 and have completed their 17 units of high school course work. After looking back at the past three years of applicants (2017-2019), the Admissions Committee would like to make this new admissions criterion permanent.

Rationale for the proposal:

Data has been harvested for the last three full years prior to Covid (2017-2019):

Conclusion: Higher retention is better predicted/evaluated thru GPA than thru ACT.

In English composition courses, students whose GPAs range from 2.99-2.5 is 40%, while it's 20% for those with a GPA range from 3.0-3.49.

In math, percentage is 39% vs 62% for students in the same GPA ranges.

While ACT has been used for math placement, Yancy Freeman has been in contact with math department to determine a suitable substitute. Conversation about this matter is ongoing.

Students of color (excluding Asian Americans) who have higher GPAs *and* lower tests scores nonetheless have similar retention rates as the general student body.

Students who submit test scores would be evaluated by the traditional criteria for admission: 2.85 GPA and 18 ACT or 2.5 GPA and 21 ACT

A 3.0 GPA is the reasonable level for students to gain admission and to be retained at UTC.