



MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty Senate Executive Committee

From: Elizabeth S. Chilton, Provost and Executive Vice President
Saichi Oba, Vice Provost, Enrollment Management

Subject: WSU Pullman - Admissions Review Process

Date: November 16, 2022

Handwritten signatures in blue ink. The first signature is "E. Chilton" and the second is "Saichi Oba".

We are writing to inform you that the Office of Admission will modify the review process for incoming first-year students applying to the WSU Pullman campus to increase efficiency and extend offers far more quickly. Starting this semester, students with a 2.8 cumulative unweighted high school GPA and who are also on track to meet the state's College Admissions Distribution Requirements (CADRs) will be offered admission after a single holistic review of their application and high school transcript.

During the previous cycle, students in this population were sent through a secondary officer review process that slowed our ability to return a decision to the applicant. It is important to note WSU Pullman has been accepting qualified students at this GPA threshold for at least the past ten years, so this is not an adjustment to the incoming first-year student population. Any student with less than a 2.8 unweighted high school GPA, demonstrated deficiencies in CADR completion, or concerning grade trends in their academic background will continue to be evaluated through a secondary review process.

It is also important to note that the overall retention of students in the 2.8-2.99 GPA band is strong enough to warrant this approach. Historically, this incoming student population is retained to WSU Pullman at around 70% per year – 70.5% for the 2021 class and 72.7% for the class of 2020. Additionally, this population makes up only ~5% of our overall applicant pool to the WSU Pullman campus. In parallel with this change to the admissions process, conversations are underway across various areas on the WSU Pullman campus to determine approaches that will proactively support students across the entire continuum of preparatory levels to ensure our retention and graduation outcomes remain excellent.

Given that WSU just launched our partnership with the Common Application, we anticipate increases in new first-year applicants to the WSU Pullman campus. Because the data suggests that the majority of qualified applicants in the 2.8-2.99 high school GPA band are successfully navigating our programs, this minor alteration to how applications are reviewed is warranted.

Cc: Vice Provosts
Kristina Peterson-Wilson, Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost
Andrew Brewick, Director of Admissions