

A Look Back at the Year in Guilford Sports, pages 9-11

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College Looking to Increase Size of Student Body

Jacob Stohler
Editor in Chief

As a primarily tuition-dependent school, when Guilford wants to increase expenditures, it must invariably bring in more tuition revenue. Therefore, with recent expansions, increased salaries and debt on its mind, the administration is debating whether to enroll more students to pay for those expenses.

According to the Long Range Planning Committee, the college may have to do just that. Its only questions will be exactly

how many students to admit and at what rate to accept them.

With those questions in mind, the committee is considering three draft models describing the school's admissions profile for the next five years. According to Dean of Students Nancy Cable-Wells, the committee will probably not choose any particular model until it sees the profile of the 1991 freshman class later this summer.

Under the first draft model, the school would look to increase the size of the freshman class to 358 in 1995 (this fall Guilford accepted 335 freshmen) and lower

its admission rate from 79.8 percent to 68 percent. The model also calls for increasing the number of full-time students (CCE and main-campus) by 93 to 1643.

Guilford admitted 335 freshman this past fall but that number has since fallen after 22 first-year students withdrew between semesters. Guilford this year lost 10.8 percent of its main campus students to academic probation, transferring and mid-year graduation, the largest percentage loss in 13 years.

The second draft model is much the same as the first, only calling for a higher rate of acceptance (72 percent) to compensate for a potentially-lower rate of prospects who choose Guilford.

The third draft model calls for a smaller freshman class (320) by 1995 and only 1599 full-time students. Under this model, however, the college would look to decrease the number of continuing education students by only 50, as compared with a decrease of 100 under the other two models.

All three models are similar in that they call for an increase in the size of the student body to bring in more revenue from tuition. Since Guilford depends mainly on tuition—as opposed to its endowment, alumni gifts, etc.—to fund its operating budget, the school must enroll more students as it takes on more expenditures.

According to Director of Admissions Larry West, such an increase in students is “an economic necessity” in order to pay for three main things: new facilities being constructed, increased administrative and faculty salaries, and service on the college’s debt.

But some faculty question the validity of those goals, asking if the increased income will actually be used as intended.

“To increase faculty pay in no way requires an increase in admissions,” said Bill Stevens, the chair of the Admissions and Retention Committee. “It’s an attractive reason. Nearly everyone would support a faculty pay increase.”

In a memorandum from the Admissions and Retention Committee to the faculty, Stevens warned that aiming for higher admissions numbers could hurt the college.

“We [on the committee] fear that creat-

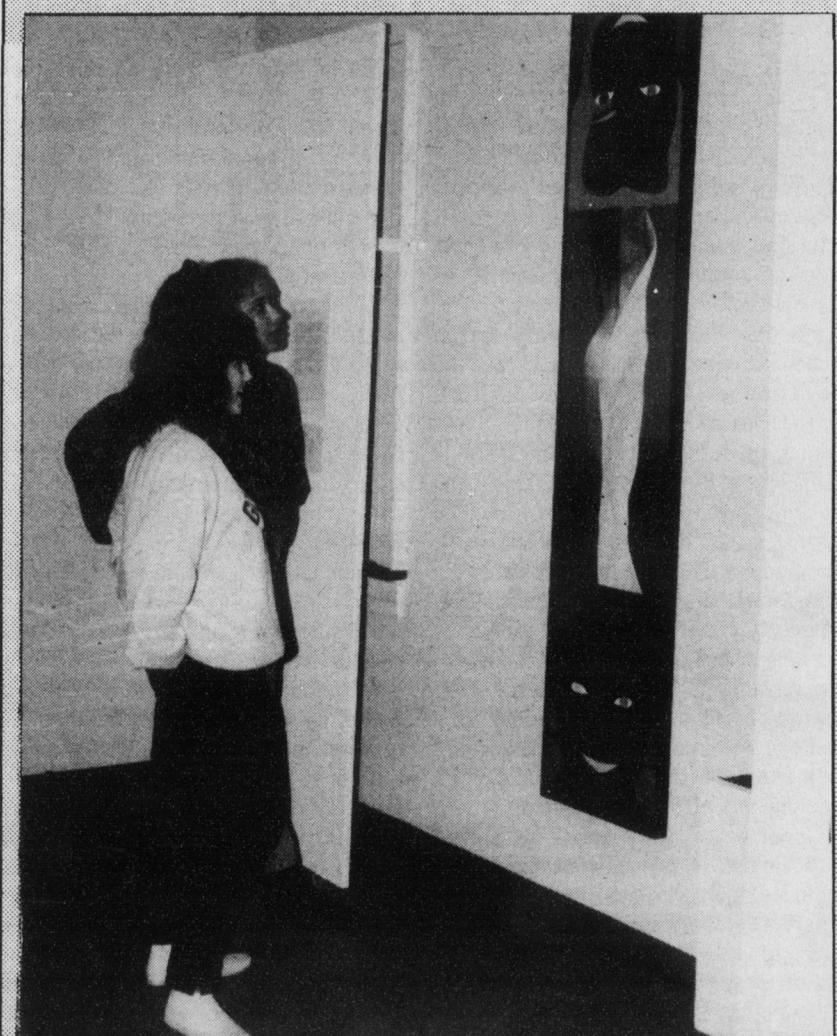
ing such a plan and becoming financially dependent on it may force the college dangerously near an open-enrollment admissions policy,” said the memo. “Therefore, we believe that such a plan should be reconsidered.”

All three draft models call for lowering the school’s admissions rate from 1990’s figure of 79.8 percent, either to 68 or 72 percent. The increase in students is expected to come from a predicted increase in prospects, or students considering Guilford. In all three models, Guilford is predicting that the number of interested students will increase from 15,500 to 20,000.

The increase reflects what colleges across the nation are predicting: that the pool of applicants is hitting the trough of a late-1980s downward curve and will begin to increase again by 1995. Admissions demographics have shown that the number of traditional-age freshmen applicants across the country has been decreasing for several years now.

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Rachel Donegan and Cheyenne Darrett look at Isao Takahashi's "Woman #4" at the Senior Thesis Show in the Gallery. The exhibit is a display for the final art projects of Guilford's graduating art majors/photo by George Brand