During 2005-2006, the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid largely set aside its agenda to focus on Dean Sternberg's proposal to incorporate elements of his "Rainbow Test" to identify creative and practical intelligence in applicants who might not be admitted on the basis of their SAT scores but had other qualities to offer Tufts. The Committee met with Dean Sternberg, discussed his proposal at length and agreed to the incorporation of elements of the Rainbow Test in the Tufts admissions application on a trial basis. The Committee conveyed its concern that appropriate methods be devised to evaluate the students admitted as a result. The Committee Chair had a further follow up meeting with Deans Coffin and Sternberg and the outside evaluator of the project. The Committee agreed to continue to monitor the initiative during the year to come.

The Committee also monitored the admission process for the Class of 2010, receiving regular reports from Dean Coffin and discussing them. In addition, the Committee discussed the implications of: the academic interests of entering students in response to Tufts "marketing," the large size of the Class of 2009 on transfer applications and subsequent classes, the Board of Trustees' decision to include "gender identity and expression" in Tufts' diversity criteria, and the awarding of merit scholarships by rival institutions to students accepted by Tufts but not qualifying for financial aid according to current Tufts guidelines. Lastly, the Committee began a conversation on need-blind admissions and its implications for Tufts admissions and financial aid, which it agreed to continue next year, along with a discussion of whether Tufts should continue to use the common application or design its own.

Peter Winn
Chair