Report of the Undergraduate Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid, 2011-2012

During the summer of 2011 Dean Berger-Sweeney asked the Undergraduate Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid if it would look into the possibility of a bridge program for Arts and Sciences. A number of schools have created these summer programs to try to improve the transition to college for first generation freshmen. The Committee responded positively and went to work during the fall semester. After reviewing background research conducted by our Admissions office, the Committee developed a detailed proposal for a program built around a quantitative course and an writing intensive course. The proposal also outlined the necessary advising component, student living arrangements, social activities, and continuing programming after the summer courses end. Dean Berger-Sweeney endorsed the report and implementation began immediately with intensive planning by Dowling administrators. The program, christened BLAST (Bridge to Liberal Arts Success at Tufts), begins this summer with 22 students enrolled. The Committee is delighted to have played a role in its creation.

In the spring the Committee turned its attention to a serious shortcoming in our undergraduate financial aid budget. We are particularly concerned about the impact of the budget on the diversity of our undergraduate student body. No formal action was taken during the semester but we will continue to monitor the situation and stand ready going forward to assist Dean Lee Coffin and Director of Financial Aid Patricia Reilly.

The Committee has selected Christoph Börgers to serve as chair for 2012-13

On behalf of the Committee,

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Berry

Members, 2011-2012
Berry, Jeffrey (chair)
Börgers, Christoph
Carp, Benjamin
Cowen, Lenore J
Garman, David
Sobieraj, Sarah
Vogel, Richard M
Huang, William (student)
Katter, Daniel (student)
Wang, Victor (student)
Coffin, Lee, *ex officio*
James Glaser, *ex officio*
Lowe, Carmen, *ex officio*
Reilly, Patricia, *ex officio*
Reitman, Bruce, *ex officio*
Terkla, Dawn, *ex officio*