The UAFAC met 3 times this year and wishes to thank Karen Richardson and Patricia Reilly for their leadership and dedication. The following subjects were presented and discussed:

- Updates on the status of applications and admissions
  Karen and Patty enlightened the committee on various aspects of the process, including the Questbridge program, ED v. regular admissions, profiles of applicants, goals for the BFA and decisions regarding financial aid, among others. Admission rate was 14.6%. The yield was much greater than anticipated.

- Mission of the committee
  We discussed our mission and how useful the committee is. Karen and Patty confirmed that they find the committee meetings helpful to discuss ideas and programs and the faculty members can report to their own departments.

- Update on REAL and transfer students
  The committee was given a presentation on the specifics of the REAL program: the students’ academic background, their age, the additional structure set up to help them succeed, the financial aid provided. We also discussed the particulars of the transfer students: over 1,000 applicants a year, the acceptance rate and yield, the orientation events to help them integrate and the limited financial aid.

- Discussion on the university’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth and threats
  Karen led the committee in an exercise to identify our perception of Tufts’ strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth and threats. We listed the following:
  - Strengths: civic engagement, personalized attention, class size, engaged faculty, few graduate students teaching, liberal arts curriculum, location, study abroad opportunities, support for 1st generation students.
  - Weaknesses: housing, some of the facilities, tuition, financial issues, rankings, lack of name recognition on a national level, lack of diversity, transportation & advising for SMFA students, social life dominated by Greek life and sports, too many requirements.
  - Opportunities for growth: new social spaces, connections with professionals in Boston, online classes, more economic diversity, the Green Line
  - Threats: changes in US demographics, changes in federal regulations, high tuition, value of a liberal arts degree, larger student body, junior & senior housing, differentiating the Tufts student body

- Mock application process
  Karen led a mock application process with the committee. We were given 2 applications and we had 15 minutes to take notes on an applicant’s family/background, academics, extra-curriculars and personal qualities and we needed to keep in mind institutional priorities. We found the process extremely difficult because of the amount of information. We understand
better how quickly the admissions officers need to work to capture all the relevant information about each applicant.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the committee,

Anne-Christine Rice
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Chair, UAFAC, AY 2017-2018