

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
SWARTHMORE
PENNA. 19081

OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS

FREDERICK A. HARGADON
Dean of Admissions

June 2, 1967

Courtney:

The attached data sheets together with the memorandum I prepared earlier this year for the CEP should be suggestive as to where I think we presently stand in admissions at Swarthmore. In addition, the following thoughts might be usefully expressed to the alumni and/or the Board of Managers:

1. Despite the fact that all of the statistics would show that Swarthmore has one of the most uniformly highly qualified applicant groups, in terms of academic ability and achievement, in the country, the admission and enrollment of the brightest, most personable, and most promising students remains a highly competitive process. If a number of the men's colleges and universities become coeducational institutions in the near future, the competition for the "bright and..." student will increase.

2. The business of numbers, when discussing admissions, is a tricky thing. The three universities with which we are most competitive (Harvard-Radcliffe, Yale and Princeton) each have about 5,000 applicants a year, and Swarthmore itself has over 2,000. But all of the talk about the relatively few places available in each of the freshman classes of these institutions relative to the large number of applications is misleading. I think it is always preferable to have a sizeable candidate group to draw upon, but what really counts is the quality, the variety and the depth of the applicant group. Despite the difficulty which admissions deans have in setting down explicit criteria by which they select their candidates for admission, it is amazing how often the actual admissions decisions made separately by each of these institutions reflects a high degree of unanimity on who the most outstanding and desirable candidates are. The young man or young woman who stands out in Swarthmore's applicant group seems to also stand out in Harvard's and Radcliffe's candidate groups, however much larger their applicant groups than ours. It is for this reason that despite a ratio of ten applicants for every one place available in the freshman class we are and must continue to be concerned to maintain and increase if possible the depth of our applicant group in terms of outstanding candidates.

3. Partly because of this concern for depth and partly because of the variety of misunderstandings and misapprehensions held by secondary schools in the immediate area of Philadelphia and the surrounding suburbs, we invited counselors from over fifty secondary schools around Swarthmore to the campus for a day last Fall. We informed them about the College and about admissions, and also showed them admissions statistics to correct the mistaken notion held by many of them that Swarthmore was not interested in accepting students from nearby schools. Perhaps as a result of our attempt to increase their interest in us, we found we were able to accept for admission this year almost sixty candidates from the Philadelphia and suburban schools alone. Obviously, not all sixty are coming to Swarthmore, but it is not because of our lack of interest in good students from surrounding areas.

4. We have also found that in the area of recruitment of minority group students, particularly the Negro students, the advantage we enjoyed just three years ago when seven of the small excellent colleges received the initial Rockefeller grant has now diminished as a large number of excellent colleges and universities have also made significant attempts to recruit the qualified minority group students. Through our Rockefeller program, Swarthmore has managed to make itself visible to the highly qualified Negro student, but the admission and enrollment of such students is very competitive.

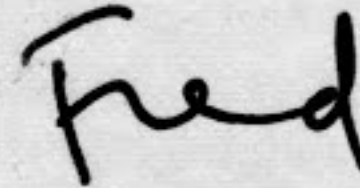
5. Our concern for variety and depth in the applicant group has also led us to make efforts to increase the number of secondary schools across the country with which we communicate about Swarthmore and from which we hope to attract good candidates. This year, for instance, some 300 high schools sent us candidates for the first time. A good deal of travel and greater and more significant help from the alumni have enabled us to increase the visibility of Swarthmore throughout the country. We will be seeking a great deal more of such help in the future.

6. We think we have managed to convey a more accurate image of the College in recent years, and I think the kind of candidates we have been receiving, accepting and enrolling are testimony to this. All of the news media keep reminding us of how much brighter students are today than a decade or two ago. And the statistics of each successive freshman class at Swarthmore would bear this out. What has been particularly pleasing is the fact that not only are our students brighter, but they are also increasingly more talented in areas outside the classroom. I think this is a development which we ought to make every effort to foster and maintain.

7. We have also found that the quality, both personal and academic, of applicants who are children of alumni and/or Friends has been sufficiently high to result in our accepting and enrolling a large number, though by no means all, of such candidates each year on their own merits as young men and young women.

8. Lastly, we have managed to select and enroll students from a variety of backgrounds and all parts of the world without sacrificing academic quality; more important, we have been able to maintain high academic quality without becoming intimidated by College Board test results and other statistical indices of past academic performance. Our admission data fully bears out our stated policy of accepting for promise as well as for past performance, and of not merely selecting those who have scored highest on the numerous standard tests.

Without repeating myself, I think this is about all I can say by way of new comment. If anything else occurs to you, I will be glad to respond accordingly.



Fred Hargadon

Dr. Courtney Smith
College Mail

Admissions

6/2/67

Class of 1971

1. Some 2300 candidates from 1314 schools (including over 300 schools from which we received a candidate for the first time).
1100 men applicants, 1200 women applicants / 171 Transfers
2. The incoming freshman class of 285 come from 40 states and perhaps a dozen foreign countries. They represent 206 public schools, 62 independent schools, and 17 schools abroad.
3. We accepted 460 and enrolled 285, a 60% return.
4. The median board scores for the class are: Verbal: 702, Math: 692.
5. The class includes 24 National Merit Scholars, 2 National Achievement Scholars, and 8 Swarthmore National Scholars.
6. Of the 155 entering freshman men, 76 were varsity lettermen in high school.
7. A wide range of other extra-curricular interests and abilities in fields such as music, drama, journalism, and social service are also represented in great depth. Includes one young man who has had one of his films shown at the Venice Film Festival in 1967.
8. There will be 5 Negro men and 5 Negro women in the freshman class.
9. Of those students we accepted for admission but who did not come:
of 110 men: at least 30 went to Harvard
 at least 13 went to Yale
 at least 8 went to Princeton
 at least 7 went to Oberlin

 The rest are pretty well scattered at a variety of other colleges and universities.

of 80 women: at least 27 went to Radcliffe

 and the rest are pretty well scattered at a variety of other colleges and universities.
10. We had a total of 116 applications from children of alumni and/or Friends, of which 62 were accepted, and 43 enrolled. (53% accepted for admission).

The number of children of alumni and/or Friends in the Class of 1971 constitute 15% of the incoming class.

6/2/67