

## I. OVERVIEW

The first meeting of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's (SAIC) Anti-Racism Committee (ARC), Tuition Equity, and Finance Share Subcommittee, was held on Thursday, November 19, 2020 online from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

### A. ATTENDING

Craig Downs, executive director of media and instructional resources; Felice Dublon, vice president and dean of student affairs (co-chair); Brian Esker, vice president of finance; Reneé Finnell, executive director of individual giving; Nicole Hall, director of graduate admissions; Deborah Martin, dean of student life; Rose Milkowski, vice president of enrollment management; Asia Mitchell, executive director of undergraduate admissions; Stephanie Oberhausen, vice president of advancement; Daniel Quiles, associate professor Cheryl Russel, executive director of corporate, foundation, and civic relations; Oliver Sann, professor; Rosalie Shemmer, dean of career and professional experience (CAPX); Jeff Ward, special assistant for executive communications (notetaker); Adrian Wong, assistant professor (co-chair)

### B. AGENDA

- Introductions
- Enrollment Discussion

## II. INTRODUCTIONS

Looking towards their charge to establish and enforce equitable methods of assessment, particularly during the point of admission to the School, and mitigate structures that provide unequal access to opportunities or resources, subcommittee members introduced themselves by stating their existing involvement in tuition, equity, and finances, which included: increasing career support for diverse job-seekers, working toward more paid internships, participation in the first-generation fellow program, employing students, increasing diversity of prospective student applicants, participating in graduate admissions as faculty, and fundraising for access and affordability.

## III. ENROLLMENT

To help focus the Milkowski gave a presentation on enrollment, and the subcommittee members discussed. During the conversation, the following salient points:

- Despite exponential growth among undergraduate applications and acceptances to the School from Black-identified prospective students over the past decade, the number of admitted, Black applicants who enrolled, though greater, was still relatively few in terms of individuals.
- Meanwhile, applications among White-identified applicants over the past decade was up slightly, but the number of applicants who enrolled is down.

- Based on surveys of Black-identified admits who do not enroll, finances were the primary reason for not attending.
- Among applicants to graduate programs, applications and admits have increased over the last several years among both Black- and white-identified prospective students; however, enrollment was down equally in both categories.
- In determining financial aid, there are a number of factors—e.g., Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), pell grant eligibility—that are determined by the government; therefore, focusing subcommittee efforts should focus on factors in the purview of the School.
- Institutional aid, e.g., scholarships, must comply to nondiscrimination law; however, they can target factors that are not considered protected status, e.g., location, area of interest

#### IV. NEXT STEPS

In preparation for their next meetings, during which the subcommittee would work towards admission and enrollment recommendations, members would propose concrete questions the committee should pursue as it furthers its research and identify outcomes the committee should aim for in evaluating its recommendations. That homework would be discussed at the group's next meeting.