

Faculty Senate Resolution 04-11

Admission Requirement of ACT/SAT Essays

(submitted by the Faculty Senate Committee on Admissions, Standards, and Honors)

(Read by Vince Wilson)

Whereas, the Faculty of Louisiana State University have approved a series of improvements in admission standards at LSU, the last being Faculty Senate Resolution 02-09 and 03-07; and

Whereas, the Educational Testing Service and the College Board administer the ACT and SAT, respectively, and will be offering a writing assessment in the form of a controlled and timed essay writing experience as part of their testing format beginning Spring 2005 for students applying for Fall 2006; and

Whereas, though ACT/SAT will provide scores to all institutions, they will provide the essays to only those institutions that have made this writing component part of their mandatory admission requirements; and

Whereas, most of LSU's peer institutions identified as benchmarks within the *Flagship Agenda* have already committed to requiring the writing assessment as part of their admission package; and

Whereas, presently an essay is required for scholarship and Honors College consideration, and currently the authorship cannot be verified, and the delivery of this mechanism would facilitate more efficient processing for scholarships and Honors College admission; and

Whereas, adopting the ACT/SAT written components as part of the LSU admissions assessment will enhance the integrity of the essay writing process, and it will level the playing field for students applying the Honors College and/or for the scholarships by ensuring the essays are written without input from others and by using a standard set of criteria for evaluation; and

Whereas, by adopting the writing assessment both the ACT/SAT standardized assessment scores of the writing will be available, and the actual written essays will be available for in house evaluation; and

Whereas, these writing scores will contribute to the holistic review of admission files; and

Whereas, both ACT and SAT are requesting institutions to notify them by May 1, 2004 of their position on the writing assessment requirement in order to prepare their publications for the 2004-2005 academic year;

Therefore, be it resolved that the LSU admissions requirements beginning in Fall 2006 include the ACT/SAT writing components for an assessment of writing from applicants.