

Student Enrollment Task Force
Spring 2009

Charge

Increasing the size of the student population is one strategy that has been proposed for reducing the size of Cornell's budget deficit. It is easy to estimate the gross revenue that would be generated from additional students. It is less clear how increasing the size of the student population would impact the student experience—in and beyond the classroom, and how much of the new revenue would have to be reinvested in additional staff, facilities, and financial aid.

The Student Enrollment Task Force (SETF) is charged with estimating the net impact of each of the following changes, effective Fall 2010:

1. Increasing the size of the undergraduate population by .3% over four years (e.g., increase size of incoming class by about 100).
2. Increasing the size of the undergraduate population by .7% over four years (e.g., increase size of incoming class by about 200).
3. Increasing the size of the undergraduate population by 1.0% over four years (e.g., increase size of incoming class by about 300).
4. Increasing the size of the revenue-generating graduate student population by 5%.
5. Increasing the size of the revenue-generating graduate student population by 10%.

The net impact should include a number of considerations, such as: financial costs and benefits, quality of the student population, faculty-student ratios, availability of majors, impact on the residential experience, and necessary policy changes. The SETF is encouraged to consider innovative alternatives, including the possible addition of a third semester in the summer.

The SETF will submit its preliminary report to the Provost by July 1, 2009. The final report is due by October 1, 2009.