

Experiment on Alternative Criteria for COM-FSM Admissions

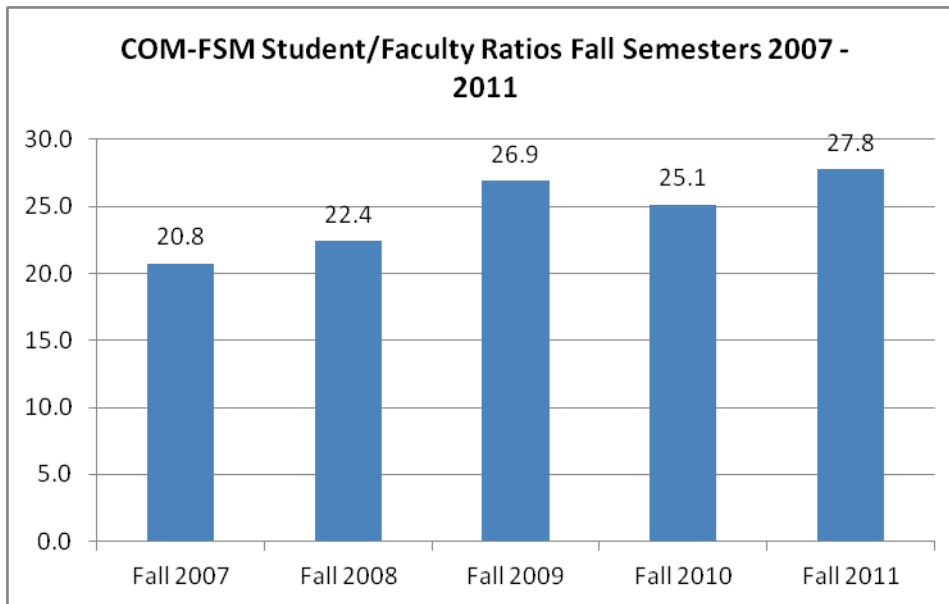
In effort to respond to the BOR directive towards establishing alternative criteria for admissions to COM-FSM beyond solely COMET scores, the following has been considered keeping in mind some concerns.

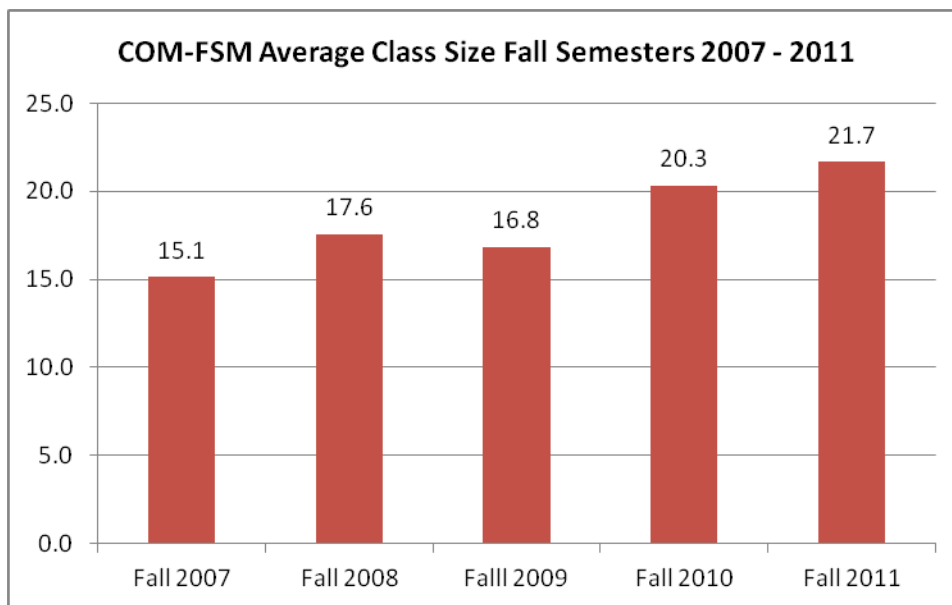
Concerns

- Climbing ratio of students to instructor
- Students unable to obtain all the classes they need to stay on track for their degree (classes full)
- Institutional costs associated with accommodating more students such as, lack of classroom space (would need to run evening and weekend classes), necessity to hire more faculty, and necessity to increase student support services and personnel (getting students “in” doesn’t equate to getting students “through” the college).

Student to Faculty (instruction, research, and public service) ratio

	Faculty	Student enrollment	Student to faculty ratio	
Fall 2007	113	2346	20.8	to 1
Fall 2008	110	2464	22.4	to 1
Fall 2009	103	2770	26.9	to 1
Fall 2010	108	2716	25.1	to 1
Fall 2011	105	2915	27.8	to 1





That said, while we continue collecting more data on our COMET scores and relevance as an accurate predictor of student success, we do want to experiment with the potential for student success if we were to consider alternative criteria for admissions. As we are not presently geared up for accepting a large increase in enrollment, and as we are not certain if alternative criteria can lead us to some capable students otherwise denied access, we propose an experiment on a moderate scale that can be supported with existing personnel and infrastructure.

We propose a specific cohort, not to exceed 25 students, who can be selected based on the following alternative criteria listed below. We propose to generate this cohort for Spring 2013, allowing sufficient time to ensure we have in place quality instructors, additional support services, and a data collection/reporting process. This experiment allows us time to collect data both quantitative and qualitative from students, instructors, and support services personnel. For this experiment, following these criteria, we propose to admit students to Pohnpei campus only, with the intention, if successful, to consider for college-wide application.

Over the course of the year (Spring 2013 – Fall 2013), we will track our cohort's success and offer a report (and perhaps a publishable document) for evaluation which informs us as to whether or not we can and should employ these alternative criteria on a larger scale, and whether or not we should consider further alternative criteria. By this time, we will also have more data on COMET's correlation with student success, or lack thereof.

Proposed alternative criteria for admissions to select up to 25 additional students:

With this experiment, we are not actually admitting students who would not already have qualified for admissions, but they would have been placed in a certificate program over degree track. We feel more comfortable in this approach with much of our existing services and with ensuring the success of these

students, as we do not want to set any of our students up for failure. Students who have not been accepted into the ACE program by COMET scores will be considered for admissions by meeting the following criteria:

	Proposed Criteria	Current ACE Requirement
COMET Essay score	25 - 27	28 - 33
Reading Comprehension	6 th grade – 6.9th	7 – 8.9 th grade
Math placement	MS 99 or higher	No MS placement
EN placement	None	None

Additionally the students under consideration will be required to submit, for consideration and review by the VPSS and VPIA (and additional review by RAR subcommittee):

1. Admissions letter of recommendation from High School
2. High School Transcript with coursework and GPA
3. A special application letter from the student addressing the student's educational/career goals, involvement in student government and other school activities, and community service activities (to be developed by VPSS and VPIA).