**OUTLINE OF ISSUE**
Advice, Discussion, Information Item

**Agenda Title:** Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2017-18

**Item**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposed by</th>
<th>Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost and University Registrar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presenter</td>
<td>Steven Dew, Provost and Vice-President (Academic)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Details**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Provost and Vice-President (Academic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Purpose of the item is (please be specific)</td>
<td>To discuss the 2017/18 annual report on undergraduate enrolment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timeline/Implementation Date</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplementary Notes and context</td>
<td>Provides the institution with undergraduate enrolment information for awareness and to support future planning.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Engagement and Routing** (Include meeting dates)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation: (parties who have seen the proposal and in what capacity)</th>
<th><strong>Those who have been informed:</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;For further information see the link posted on the Governance Toolkit section Student Participation Protocol&gt;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  
  • GFC Exec - January 15, 2018  
  • APC - January 17, 2018  
  • Advisory Committee on Enrolment Management- January 26, 2018  
  • GFC - January 29, 2018  
  • BLDC (Executive Summary only) - March 2, 2018  
  • Statutory Deans’ Council- February 7, 2018  
  • PEC-O- TBA  
  • Chairs Council- March 27, 2018  
  • Vice-Provosts’ Council- February 12, 2018  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Those who have been consulted:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  • President and Vice Chancellor- Dr. David Turpin- January 5, 2018  
  • Office of the President- (Dr. Catherine Swindlehurst)- January 5, 2018  
  • Provost and Vice President Academic- Dr. Steven Dew- January 5, 2018  
  • Deputy Provost Dr. Wendy Rodgers  
  • Vice-Provosts Dr. Tammy Hopper and Dr. Sarah Forgie- January 5, 2018  
  • Office of the Provost: Ms. Edith Finczak, Ms. Kathleen Brough, Ms. Andrea Patrick- January 5, 2018  
  • Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing – Ms. Deborah Williams- January 5, 2018  
  • Vice Provosts’ Council- February 12, 2018  |
## Alignment/Compliance

### Alignment with Guiding Documents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>For the Public Good</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BUILD</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOAL: Build a diverse, inclusive community of exceptional students, faculty and staff from Alberta, Canada, and the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To begin, we will attract outstanding students…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OBJECTIVE 1:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build a diverse, inclusive community of exceptional undergraduate and graduate students from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, and the world.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUSTAIN

| GOAL: Sustain our people, our work, and the environment by attracting and stewarding the resources we need to deliver excellence to the benefit of all Albertans. |
| A commitment that extends to administration and governance… |
| **OBJECTIVE 21:** |
| Encourage continuous improvement in administrative, governance, planning and stewardship systems, procedures, and policies that enable students, faculty, staff, and the institution as a whole to achieve shared strategic goals. |

### Compliance with Legislation, Policy and/or Procedure Relevant to the Proposal (please quote legislation and include identifying section numbers)

1. **Post-Secondary Learning Act (PSLA):** The PSLA gives GFC responsibility, subject to the authority of the Board of Governors, over academic affairs. Further, the PSLA gives the Board of Governors authority over certain admission requirements and rules respecting enrolment. The Board has delegated its authority over admissions requirements and rules respecting enrolment to GFC and the GFC ASC. (Sections 26(1), 60(1)(c) and (d)).

2. **General Faculties Council (GFC) Terms of Reference (Section 3/Mandate):** “[…] The issues which remain with GFC or which would be referred by a Standing Committee to GFC would generally be in the nature of the following: |
   - high level strategic and stewardship policy issues or matters of significant risk to the University; |
   - alterations to the mandate, terms of reference, composition, or structure of a Standing Committee[.] […]”

GFC has powers under the PSLA to

“make recommendations to the board with respect to affiliation with other institutions, academic planning, campus planning, a building program, the budget, the regulation of residences and dining halls, procedures in respect of appointments, promotions, salaries, tenure and dismissals,
and any other matters considered by the general faculties council to be of interest to the university […] [PSLA Section 26(1)(o)]" and to “determine standards and policies respective the admission of persons to the university as students[…] [PSLA Section 26(1)(n)]”

3. GFC Executive Committee Terms of Reference, “Agendas of General Faculties Council

GFC has delegated to the Executive Committee the authority to decide which items are placed on a GFC Agenda, and the order in which those agenda items appear on each GFC agenda.”

4. Board Learning and Discovery Committee Terms of Reference (Section 3/Mandate): “Except as provided in paragraph 4 hereof and in the Board’s General Committee Terms of Reference, the Committee shall, in accordance with the Committee’s responsibilities with powers granted under the Post-Secondary Learning Act, monitor, evaluate, advise and make decisions on behalf of the Board with respect to matters concerning the teaching and research affairs of the University, including proposals coming from the administration and from General Faculties Council (the “GFC”), and shall consider future educational expectations and challenges to be faced by the University. The Committee shall also include any other matter delegated to the Committee by the Board.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing the Committee shall:

a. receive and approve initiatives related to the overall academic mission and related plans and policies of the University; […]

d. review and approve the establishment, modification and removal of enrolment quotas and annually review such quotas[…]”

5. GFC Academic Planning Committee Terms of Reference (Section 3 Mandate): “APC is responsible for making recommendations to GFC and/or to the Board of Governors concerning policy matters and action matters with respect to the following: […]

6. Enrollment and Planning:

- To recommend to GFC on University-wise enrolment targets for undergraduate and graduate students.
- To recommend to GFC on enrollment management processes, including the establishment of new quotas for individual Faculties and programs.

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 (pages 1 – 40) - Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2017/18

Prepared by: Lisa Collins, Vice-Provost & University Registrar, lisa.collins@ualberta.ca
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*Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment 2017/18*
MESSAGE FROM THE VICE-PROVOST AND UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

The university’s learning environment and broader success depends on stable, planned, and managed enrolment. The Office of the Registrar continued to work with faculties and administrative units this year to provide guidance on enrolment management best practice. We increased the number of planning meetings and used detailed reporting to help support evidence-based decisions. We continue to see fruitful results as we work collaboratively with our partners.

This year’s fifth installment of the Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment also reflects the first year of our Undergraduate National Recruitment Strategy efforts. Through strategic undergraduate enrolment management, we support the university in achieving its objective to “Build a diverse, inclusive community of exceptional students from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and the world.”

It has been a record year for undergraduate enrolment for the University of Alberta, particularly in terms of applications and admissions. The university experienced increased demand this year, while continuing to provide a healthy balance of accessible and competitive programs. I’m pleased that we landed just 1.3 per cent above our undergraduate enrolment targets. This result is a reflection of the quality of our students, as we admitted more applicants with exceptional admission averages.

However, the real story comes from specific groups within our undergraduate student population. We remain committed to balancing the provision of access for Alberta students with growing and diversifying our out-of-province and international populations, and at the same time, improving access for Indigenous students. We saw significant increases for all of these groups for our incoming, new-to-university, direct-entry students: +5.5 per cent Albertan students, +33.3 per cent out-of-province students, +11.4 per cent Indigenous students, and +21.4 per cent international students.

We have been building towards our goal of 15 per cent for international undergraduate enrolment with the expressed aim of ensuring a diverse classroom environment and a more global experience for all of our students. This year, the university saw significant growth in international demand and international students now comprise 14.7 per cent of the undergraduate student body. It is likely that geopolitical factors, such as the US travel ban, contributed to the increase in international applications. Students who may have chosen to study in the US are now considering Canada, and the University of Alberta, more often. Our increased recruitment efforts targeting this audience certainly contributed to the gains as well.

While applications to the university increased by 6.7 per cent, we processed those applications quicker than ever before due to the addition of automatic evaluation as part of our admissions process. Use of this new technology increased efficiency, allowing us to provide admission offers sooner in the application cycle, as well as on a more timely basis; some in as soon as twenty-four hours after submitting an application. I hope to see continued innovation and efficiency in our processes in years to come.

While enrolment trends are sometimes difficult to predict, early indicators suggest that this past year’s unprecedented demand for seats at the University of Alberta will continue for at least the next several years. Through conscious planning and active management, I am confident we will be able to guide our institution to meet targets and be intentional in building our next undergraduate class, no matter what the demand. I am proud of the progress we’ve made this year, and look forward to what we can achieve in the future.

Lisa Collins
Vice-Provost & University Registrar
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Report on Undergraduate Enrolment provides an overview of key undergraduate enrolment statistics in each academic year (September 1 – August 31). Application, admission, and enrolment statistics are collected as of December 1 each year. The 2017/18 report is the fifth such annual report issued by the Office of the Registrar. The report includes information about total enrolment, expressed in headcount, as well as enrolment expressed by post-secondary institutions in the Province of Alberta as Full Load Equivalents (FLEs). In addition to tracking total enrolment, the report looks at three specific areas:

1. Student intake: applications, admissions, and registrations, including selectivity and yield rates;
2. Basic demographic data about the student body and key populations within it;
3. Student retention and completion.

Where appropriate, this report includes multi-year trend data, with data sources noted.

Total Undergraduate Enrolment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
<th></th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic</td>
<td>27,083</td>
<td>85.3%</td>
<td>Full-time</td>
<td>29,533</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International</td>
<td>4,681</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>Part-time</td>
<td>2,231</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total undergraduate enrolment</td>
<td>31,764</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>Total undergraduate enrolment</td>
<td>31,764</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For 2017/18, total undergraduate enrolment was the highest since 2013/14, representing approximately 1.3 per cent enrolment above target. Part-time student enrolment was 2,231, constituting seven per cent of the total undergraduate enrolment.

Applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total applicants</td>
<td>34,206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admitted</td>
<td>22,118</td>
<td>Admission rate: 64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered</td>
<td>12,998</td>
<td>Yield rate: 58.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2017/18 witnessed a record year for enrolment, resulting in a 6.9 per cent increase in applications over the preceding enrolment cycle. A 12 per cent increase in applications from high school students had the most impact on the overall growth in applications. To prevent over-enrolment, the university became more selective relative to prior years. Mean high school applicant admission averages in eight faculties were equal to or higher than the previous year, resulting in greater registration of applicants with higher admission averages. The mean admission averages among registered students from undergraduate direct-entry was 85.3 per cent, up from 85 per cent in the year prior. Accordingly, yield rate (the proportion of

1 University of Alberta Institutional Strategic Plan, For the Public Good
admitted applicants who register] dropped by one per cent from the prior year.

**International Citizenship of Undergraduates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top citizenship countries of international students</th>
<th>China: 69.1%</th>
<th>India: 4.0%</th>
<th>Nigeria: 2.7%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total country citizenship in international headcount</td>
<td>106</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

China, India, and Nigeria each have 100 or more students in the population.

The diversity of our undergraduate population increased in 2017/18, with the number of international citizenship countries increasing by six more than the previous year. China, India and Nigeria account for 76 per cent of the citizenship of our total international students. While China remains the top citizenship country, enrolment from other countries with historically small populations within our student body increased by two percent.

**Domestic Origin of Undergraduates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location (based on permanent home address)</th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Per Cent of Headcount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edmonton &amp; area</td>
<td>15,810</td>
<td>49.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rest of Alberta</td>
<td>7,923</td>
<td>24.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada (excluding Alberta)</td>
<td>2,725</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside of Canada*</td>
<td>5,306</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Students coming from outside of Canada are not always international as they may be Canadian citizens or permanent residents.

The university continues to demonstrate its commitment to providing access for highly qualified domestic applicants. Our domestic undergraduate headcount grew by 548 in 2017/18 to reach 27,083, representing 85.3 per cent of our total undergraduate students. 83.3 per cent of our total undergraduate students had home addresses within Canada at the time of application.

**Aboriginal Enrolment**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Persons</th>
<th>Per Cent of Overall Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Aboriginal enrolment</td>
<td>1,081</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Aboriginal applicants</td>
<td>748</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Aboriginal applicants admitted</td>
<td>510</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The overall proportion of Aboriginal students in total headcount hit a new high of 3.4 per cent in 2017/18. The increases observed in our Aboriginal enrolment are partly the result of increased admission in 2017/18. Aboriginal admission among new-to-university applicants reached yearly highs in 2017/18. The new-to-university Aboriginal admission rate (the proportion of applicants who get an offer of admission) and yield rate (the proportion of admitted applicants who registered) were 68.2 per cent and 64.5 per cent.
respectively, which are greater than the overall admission rate (64.7 per cent) and yield rate (58.8 per cent) among all undergraduate applicants.

**Year 1 to Year 2 Retention Rates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 1 to Year 2 Retention Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic students</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aboriginal students</td>
<td>91.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International students</td>
<td>88.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>89.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The year one to year two retention rate for all undergraduate students reached a new high of 89.8 percent this year. This overall rate is derived from the following rates of specific student populations: 90 per cent among domestic students, 88.6 per cent among international students, and 91.1 per cent among Aboriginal students. Most of the year one to year two retention comprises of students returning to their first-year faculty while the proportion who transfer to a different faculty continues to decrease, especially among domestic students. Faculty change continues to remain high among international students, however.
1. TOTAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT
1.1 ENROLMENT HEADCOUNT

This year saw unprecedented demand for our programs from both domestic and international applicants. The increased demand meant that the university went slightly above enrolment target as we tried to balance the twin objectives of enrolling to target and providing access for highly qualified applicants. This year’s 31,764 headcount was approximately 1.3 per cent above enrolment target.

Figure 1: Enrolment Headcount (2012 to 2017)

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive

Notes:
1. Undergraduate headcount includes 1,011 Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education Students
2. The undergraduate numbers shown for 2015/16 and 2016/17 differ by 25 and 27 respectively from what was reported in 2015 and 2016 annual reports, as the current data no longer includes students in the Career Preparation Program of Faculté Saint-Jean. Beginning from 2015/16, Career Preparation Program data was separated from undergraduate data.
1.2 NEW AND CONTINUING REGISTRATION, UNDERGRADUATE HEADCOUNT

Total undergraduate registration is comprised of “new to program” intake [applicants registered] and continuing students [continuing registered]. The increase in demand for our programs this year is reflected by the 2,229 (or 6.9 per cent) increase in the number of applicants, the 1,011 (or 4.8 per cent) increase in applicants admitted, and the increase in new-to-program headcount by 289 (or 2.3 per cent). Continuing registration also increased by 622. In all, total registration increased by 951 or 3.2 per cent.

*Table 1: 2017/2018 Applicant and Registration Numbers*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Faculty</th>
<th>Applicants</th>
<th>Applicants Admitted</th>
<th>Applicants Registered</th>
<th>Continuing Registered</th>
<th>Total Registered</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALES</td>
<td>2,125</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>1,047</td>
<td>1,592</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>8,346</td>
<td>5,339</td>
<td>2,571</td>
<td>3,331</td>
<td>5,856</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Augustana</td>
<td>2,101</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>1,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>1,526</td>
<td>847</td>
<td>717</td>
<td>1,319</td>
<td>2,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>3,410</td>
<td>1,616</td>
<td>1,103</td>
<td>1,851</td>
<td>2,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>6,222</td>
<td>3,657</td>
<td>1,942</td>
<td>2,484</td>
<td>4,445</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation</td>
<td>1,492</td>
<td>564</td>
<td>367</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>1,137</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine and Dentistry</td>
<td>2,302</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>344</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>1,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Studies</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>204</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>2,771</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>465</td>
<td>823</td>
<td>1,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Studies</td>
<td>1,578</td>
<td>1,475</td>
<td>1,008</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>1,245</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>144</td>
<td>402</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rehabilitation Medicine</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculté Saint-Jean</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>385</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>12,709</td>
<td>5,697</td>
<td>2,872</td>
<td>3,476</td>
<td>6,314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017 Total</td>
<td>34,206</td>
<td>22,118</td>
<td>12,998</td>
<td>17,904</td>
<td>30,792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Total</td>
<td>31,977</td>
<td>21,107</td>
<td>12,709</td>
<td>17,282</td>
<td>29,841</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Over Year Change (#)</td>
<td>2,229</td>
<td>1,011</td>
<td>289</td>
<td>622</td>
<td>951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Over Year Change (%)</td>
<td>6.97%</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Enrolment Management Table*
Notes:
1. “Applicants Registered” and “Continuing Registered” do not always sum up to “Total Registered”. Students who are auditing courses may be included in Applicants Registered but are excluded from Total Registered. Also, continuing students who had withdrawn from all of their classes over the past four terms but are registered in the current term would be counted in Total Registered but neither in Applicant Registered nor Continuing Registered.
2. Numbers shown for Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences include BSc Pharmacy as well as the Doctor of Pharmacy program which is considered an undergraduate program.
3. The sums of applicants and admitted within each faculty will exceed the total overall count as shown, as some applicants apply to and are admitted in more than one faculty.
4. Applicants admitted shown for 2016 will differ from those shown in 2016 annual report as the current numbers now include offers declined, cancelled or revoked. The institution has adopted an enhanced methodology to track all applicants that allows tracking of applicants who were initially admitted but had their offers declined, cancelled or revoked.
1.3 ENROLMENT FULL LOAD EQUIVALENTS, UNDERGRADUATE

As mentioned in section 1.1, the 2017/18 enrolment year witnessed an unprecedented growth in demand with the university balancing the desire to enroll to target with the need to provide access for highly qualified students. The overall undergraduate enrolment target was 26,695 Full Load Equivalents (FLEs), while the total FLEs realized is estimated at 27,052. Faculty enrolments vary. The Faculty of Engineering was the most under-enrolled, estimated at 199 FLEs or 4.4 per cent below target. The Faculties of Business and Nursing also under-enrolled by 21 FLEs (or 1.2 per cent) and 90 FLEs or (6.7 per cent), respectively. Enrolment in the remaining faculties are either on target or mildly over target, bringing the institutional aggregate to 1.3 per cent above the institutional enrolment target.

Table 2: 2017/2018 Enrolment by FLE and Comparison with Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
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<tr>
<td>Average* (Excluding Open Studies)</td>
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<td>0.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Enrolment Management Table
Notes:
1. Does not include Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education. FLE targets and estimate shown for Faculté Saint Jean does not include Career Preparation Program.
3. FLE estimates are based on registration headcount and two-year FLE to headcount conversion rate as of December 1, 2017.
4. The averages of over/under enrolment in faculties as shown in the last row do not include Open Studies.
1.4 GENDER DISTRIBUTION, UNDERGRADUATE HEADCOUNT

Approximately 55.5 per cent of our undergraduate students identify as females while 44.4 per cent identify as males. Starting from January 2016, the university provided a third gender option to allow students to declare “other” in their institutional gender records. Five persons reported the “other” gender in 2017/18, which represents 0.01 per cent of the total undergraduate population. Observed gender distribution of undergraduate students is very similar to what was observed in the preceding year.

*Figure 2: Gender Distribution in Undergraduate Registration (2012 to 2017)*

*Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive*
1.5 FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATE HEADCOUNT

University of Alberta undergraduate enrolment is classified as either full-time or part-time. Part-time students are defined as those who are registered for fewer than nine credit course weight in a term. The proportion of part-time students in undergraduate enrolment has varied between six per cent and seven per cent over the past six years. In 2017/18, part-time students constituted six per cent or 2,231 of our total enrolment while full-time students numbered 29,533 or 93 per cent.

Figure 3: Full and Part-Time Undergraduate Headcount [2012 to 2017]

![Headcount Bar Chart]

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive

Note: The total numbers shown for 2015/16 and 2016/17 differ by 25 and 27 respectively, from what was reported in 2015 and 2016 annual reports, as the current data no longer includes students in the Career Preparation Program of Faculté Saint-Jean. Beginning from 2015/16, Career Preparation Program data was separated from undergraduate data.
2. FALL 2017 INTAKE ENROLMENT

2.1 APPLICANT NUMBERS

A strong growth trend in applications was observed in the past decade. Applicant numbers showed continuous growth between 2009/10 and 2017/18, except for a temporary decline in 2015/16. In 2017/18, the applicant number reached a new high of 34,206 persons representing 2,229 applicants (or 6.9 per cent) more than preceding year. The overall growth in application was mainly due to an increase in direct-entry applicants, while post-secondary transfer applications showed relatively moderate growth [see sections 2.6 and 2.7].

Figure 4: Ten Year Undergraduate Applicant Curve (2008 to 2017)

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Enrolment Management Table

Notes:
1. Data is based on December 1 archived data for each specified year.
2. The applicant number shown for 2015/16 differs by 31 from what was reported in 2015 annual report, as the current data no longer includes students in the Career Preparation Program of Faculté Saint-Jean. Beginning from 2015/2016, Career Preparation Program data was separated from undergraduate data.
3. Data includes new-to-university applicants as well as continuing students applying for program change.
2.2 ADMISSION RATE

Admission rate is the proportion of applicants who get an offer of admission. Admission rate is influenced by the number of applications received, the quality of the applicant pool, the yield rate (the proportion of admitted applicants who register), and the desired enrolment headcount target. Our institution has traditionally based the estimation of admission rates on only offers that are active (i.e. not declined or revoked). However, to enable a more comprehensive understanding of admissions and enrolment management, the university recently implemented an enhanced method of tracking all admission offers encompassing active offers as well as declined, canceled, or revoked offers. The enhanced method was first implemented in 2017/18 but was also applied to the four most-recent prior enrolment cycles. Based on total admission offers (i.e. active, declined, cancelled and revoked offers), admission rate in 2017/18 was 64.7 per cent, down one per cent from the preceding year. The decrease was necessary in order to avoid over enrolment, given the significant increase in the number of applications received for 2017/18. If applicant numbers continue to increase further as efforts are being made to manage enrolment to targets, the admission rate would have to decrease further so as to avoid over enrolment across programs.

Figure 5: Ten Year Undergraduate Admission Rate Curve (2008 to 2017)

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Enrolment Management Table

Notes:
1. Data is based on December 1 archived data for each specified year.
2. Data includes new-to-university applicants as well as continuing students applying for program change.
2.3 YIELD RATE

Yield rate is defined as the proportion of admitted applicants who register. In 2017/18, the significant increase in demand coupled with a faster admission process had the potential of increasing yield rates among applicants with varying admission averages. Achieving increased demand and increased yield rate simultaneously would have resulted in significant over enrolment. To mitigate this, the university became more selective in reaching a fixed headcount target. Becoming more selective meant that we admitted more applicants with higher admission averages, who typically have lower yield rates because they often receive multiple offers from other institutions. Based on total offers (i.e. active, declined, cancelled and revoked offers), the resulting yield rate for 2017/18 is 59 per cent, which is one per cent lower than the preceding cycle. Simultaneously, the mean admission average among registered new intake increased as discussed in section 2.5.

*Figure 6: Ten Year Undergraduate Yield Rate Curve (2008 to 2017)*

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Enrolment Management Table

Notes:
1. Data is based on December 1 archived data for each specified year.
2. Data includes new-to-university applicants as well as continuing students applying for program change.
2.4 COMPETITIVE ADMISSION AVERAGES, UNDERGRADUATE DIRECT-ENTRY

Admission offers into the ten direct-entry faculties for 2017/18 were based on applicants meeting faculty-set competitive averages at the time of admission, and subject to the availability of space. Relative to the preceding cycle, minimum competitive admission averages for direct-entry applicants remained steady for six direct-entry faculties, increased for two, and decreased for the remaining two. The entrance standards in eight direct-entry faculties were equal to or better than the previous year. However, meeting the competitive admission averages did not guarantee an offer of admission at the University of Alberta, as the offer of admission was subject to the availability of space.

Table 3: Ten Year Final Grade 12 Competitive Admission Average History (2008 to 2017)

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<td>85-89</td>
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<td>75-80</td>
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<tr>
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<td>75</td>
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<td>83-85</td>
<td>83-85</td>
<td>➔</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Office of the Registrar

Notes:
1. The Faculty of Education started direct-entry admissions in 2012.
2. KSR refers to the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport, and Recreation, formerly the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation.
2.5 MEAN ADMISSION AVERAGES OF REGISTERED STUDENTS, UNDERGRADUATE DIRECT-ENTRY

Mean admission average among registered students refers to the mean of final grade 12 marks in required high school courses among all registered direct-entry applicants. It bears noting that this differs from “admission average,” as the students may have been offered admission based on earlier grade information such as grade 11 average or a combination of grade 11 and 12 averages.

Mean admission averages of registered direct-entry students have shown a general upward trend over the past decade among our direct-entry faculties. In 2017/18, mean admission averages among registered applicants increased further for four faculties, was constant for four others and decreased for the remaining two relative to the preceding year. Overall, mean admission average among all registered direct-entry applicants was 85.3 relative to 85 in the preceding year. In other words, 2017/18 saw greater registration of direct-entry applicants from a higher average band than the preceding years.

Table 4: Mean Averages of Registered Students (2008 to 2017)

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<td>79</td>
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<td>Augustana</td>
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<td>79</td>
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<td>80</td>
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<td>81</td>
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<td>81</td>
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</tr>
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<td>75</td>
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</tr>
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<td>82</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>84</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>↑</td>
</tr>
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<td>88</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>→</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Office of the Registrar
2.6 APPLICANT YIELD, UNDERGRADUATE DIRECT-ENTRY

Direct-entry applicant numbers reached 17,531 persons in 2017/18, showing a 1,936 person (or 12.4 per cent) rise over the previous year. A total of 12,374 (or 70.6 per cent) of the applicants were admitted while 5,446 (or 44 per cent) of the admitted applicants became registered. Direct-entry admissions exceeded the preceding year by 1,349, while direct-entry registration grew by 521. If applicant numbers continue to increase, managing enrolment to targets will require that admission rate be controlled to avoid over enrolment across programs.

Figure 7: Direct-Entry Applicant, Admission and Registration Numbers [2013 to 2017]

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report

Note: Applicants admitted shown for 2013/14 through 2016/17 will differ from those shown in previous years annual reports as the current numbers now encompass total admission offers made rather than active offers alone. The institution has adopted an enhanced methodology to track all applicants that allows tracking of applicants who were initially admitted but had their offers declined, cancelled or revoked.
2.7 APPLICANT YIELD, UNDERGRADUATE POST-SECONDARY TRANSFER

Applications from post-secondary transfer applicants in 2017/18 increased by 369 (or 4.3 per cent) over the preceding year to reach 9,003. However, admissions decreased by a moderate 172 persons (or 3.9 per cent) and registration decreased by 89 persons (or 3.1 per cent) relative to the preceding year. The decrease in post-secondary admission was necessary to offset some of the significant increase in direct entry admissions already described in section 2.6.

*Figure 8: Post-Secondary Transfer Applicant, Admission and Registration Numbers (2013 to 2017)*

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report

Notes:
1. Data in the above chart does NOT include Internal Transfer applicants.
2. Applicants admitted shown for 2013/14 through 2016/17 will differ from those shown in previous years annual reports as the current numbers now encompass total admission offers made rather than active offers alone. The institution has adopted an enhanced methodology to track all applicants that allows tracking of applicants who were initially admitted but had their offers declined, cancelled or revoked.
2.8 ADMISSION TIMING AND YIELD RATE, UNDERGRADUATE DIRECT-ENTRY

Yield rate is affected by a variety of factors including national status, province of origin, applicant quality, and applicant preferences. The timing of admission from application completion is believed to also affect yield rates. In 2017/18, the institution implemented a faster admission process for direct-entry applicants whose last school of attendance was in Canada. Eligible applicants were admitted within five days of their meeting eligibility conditions. Domestic applicants (Canadian citizens and permanent residents) constituted 91 per cent of direct-entry applicants with last school Canada, who were admitted through the accelerated admission process. Therefore, in 2017/18 the likelihood of yield among domestic applicants did not diminish with later offers. This is because later offers were not due to delays with admission process, but rather to applicants submitting required documentations or meeting eligibility conditions late.

Figure 9: Yield Rate by Month of Admission among Direct-Entry Applicants (2017/18 and 2016/17)²

Source: Office of the Registrar

² Data is suppressed for the months of June – August because the number of offers made in those months in 2017/18 is too small to allow for any meaningful comparison.
2.9 ADMISSION AVERAGES AND YIELD RATE, UNDERGRADUATE DIRECT-ENTRY

The correlation between admission averages and yield rates continues to be of interest. Among direct-entry applicants, those with higher admission averages are more selective as they often have multiple offers from competing institutions. Therefore, high-achieving applicants historically have lower yield rates. In 2017/18, the negative correlation between admission averages and yield rates was again present. Analysis of early admission averages among applicants show that yield rates were lower among those in the high average bands than those in low average bands.

Figure 10: Yield Rate by Combination Admission Average Band among Direct-Entry Applicants (2016/17 and 2017/18)

Source: Office of the Registrar
2.10 ADMISSION REVOCATION RATES, UNDERGRADUATE DIRECT-ENTRY

Beginning from 2015/16, all faculties except Engineering changed their policies to allow extension of firm offers of admission by meeting a competitive average based on Grade 11 marks, a combination of Grade 11 and Grade 12, or final Grade 12 marks. Therefore, the overall direct-entry revocation rate fell dramatically to three per cent in 2015/16 and two per cent in 2016/17, resulting in increased predictability for students. In 2017/18, overall direct-entry revocation rate remained steady at two per cent.

2017/18 revocation rates varied by faculty, ranging from 1.4 per cent for the Faculty of Science to 4.9 per cent for the Faculty of Engineering. The 2017/18 revocation rate for the Faculty of Engineering is a significant improvement from the 6.1 per cent witnessed in the preceding year. The improvement is a result of less strict conditional offers. In 2017/18 the Faculty of Engineering moved towards harmonizing practices with other faculties by relaxing some conditions on offers to high achieving students.

The revocation rate for Faculté Saint-Jean improved from 4.6 per cent to 1.6 per cent in 2017/18. Arts and Augustana witnessed moderate increases in revocation rates in 2017/18 while the rates remained relatively steady for the remaining six faculties.

Figure 11: Direct-Entry Admission Revocation Rates (2015 to 2017)

Source: Office of the Registrar
3. INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT

3.1 INTERNATIONAL ENROLMENT HEADCOUNT, UNDERGRADUATE

International undergraduate enrolment reached a headcount of 4,681 in 2017/18, approximating 14.7 per cent of the overall undergraduate enrolment of 31,764. The university’s target for international undergraduate enrolment is 15 per cent of the total undergraduate headcount. This year’s increase of 392 headcount was the result of unprecedented growth in international applicants and admissions. If international application numbers continue to grow, the institution will need to consider strategies to maintain the international enrolment ratio of 15 per cent. For the upcoming enrolment year, the institution has started to set differentiated admission averages for domestic and international applicants in select faculties.

Figure 12: International Enrolment Headcounts and Proportions in Total Enrolment (2012 to 2017)

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive

Notes:
1. An international student is an individual who is not a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.
2. Data shown includes Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education.
3. The bar chart indicates total international headcount.
4. The blue line indicates the proportion of total undergraduate enrolment that is contributed by international headcount.
5. The international headcounts shown for each of 2015/16 and 2016/17 differ by 11 from what was reported in 2015 and 2016 annual reports, as the current data no longer includes students in the Career Preparation Program of Faculté Saint-Jean. Beginning from 2015/16, Career Preparation Program data was separated from undergraduate data.
3.2 TOP SOURCE COUNTRIES BY STUDENT CITIZENSHIP, UNDERGRADUATE

Ongoing success with the university’s goal of achieving increased diversity in our international undergraduate population is reflected in the proportional trends of international undergraduates from China, Korea and India, which have historically occupied the top three spots in our international student citizenship. After having reached a historical high of 73 per cent, the proportion of international students from China declined to 72 per cent in 2016/17 and further declined to 69 per cent in 2017/18. Likewise, the proportion of international undergraduates from Korea declined from two per cent in 2016/17 to 1.6 percent in 2017/18. However, the proportion from India has continued to increase reaching 4 per cent in 2017/18. More importantly, whereas these top three countries contributed a combined 77.4 per cent of our undergraduate international students in 2015/16, that ratio decreased to 76.3 per cent in 2016/17 and 74.7 per cent in 2017/18. The decrease in the proportion of students from these top three countries can be associated partly to growth in the headcounts and proportions from Nigeria which now occupies 2.7 per cent of our international headcount. Additionally, enrolment from several other countries (collectively referred to as “Other”) increased by 154 headcounts to constitute 19 per cent of our 2017/18 international headcount.

Figure 13: Source Countries of International Students by Citizenship (2012 to 2017)

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive

Notes
1. Other consists of the remainder international countries not shown in chart.
2. The proportion of international undergraduates from China shown for 2016/17 differ by 1% from what was reported in 2016 annual reports, as the current data no longer includes students in the Career Preparation Program of Faculté Saint-Jean.
Beginning from 2015/16, Career Preparation Program data was separated from undergraduate data.
3.3 TOP SOURCE COUNTRIES BY LAST SCHOOL LOCATION, UNDERGRADUATE

For some students, country of citizenship differs from country of last school. In 2017/18, China is the last school location for 53 per cent of all international undergraduates, a two per cent decrease from the previous year. Canada is the second largest country of last school location of our international students; the proportion of international students whose last school was in Canada has held steady at 23 per cent since 2014/15.

For the first time in our modern records six new countries appeared in 2017/18 as the last school countries for our international students, including Dominican Republic [two headcounts], Republic Of Serbia [two headcounts], Lithuania [one headcount], Costa Rica [one headcount], Slovakia [one headcount], and Bahrain [one headcount].

*Figure 14: Source Countries of International Students by Last School Location (2012 to 2017)*

*Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive*
Figure 15: Source Countries of International Students by Last School Location (2017)

Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows details about Group. Details are shown for Country.

Group
- Headcount=0
- Headcount>5
- Headcount>20
- Headcount>100

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive
3.4 INTERNATIONAL DIVERSITY, UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT

The number of countries reflected in the citizenship of international undergraduate students declined from 111 in 2013/14 to 100 in 2015/16 and remained stable for the next year. 2017/18 brought an increase to our international diversity with the number of countries represented reaching 106. New additions to the list include Algeria, Dominican Republic and Northern Ireland, which had not showed up on the list for at least the past five years.

49 countries have at least five students within the international undergraduate population, while 14 countries have at least 20 students. Similar to the preceding year, three countries (China, India and Nigeria) have 100 or more students within the international undergraduate headcount for 2017/18. These statistics are specific to international students alone. They do not capture domestic students or dual citizenship, both of which would increase the number of countries represented in our overall undergraduate population.

Figure 16: Number of Country Citizenship in International Student Headcount [2012 to 2017]

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive
Figure 17: Citizenship Country of International Undergraduate Students (2017)

Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows details about Group. Details are shown for Country.

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive
4. DOMESTIC UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT
4.1 DOMESTIC HEADCOUNTS AND RATIOS, UNDERGRADUATE

Domestic students are Canadian citizens or permanent residents of Canada. The university continues to provide access for highly qualified domestic applicants. Our domestic undergraduate headcount for 2017/18 is 27,083, representing a growth of 548 over the preceding year. Domestic enrolment constitutes 85.3 per cent of the total undergraduate population in 2017/18. The institution aims to maintain domestic undergraduate enrolment at 85 per cent of total undergraduate enrolment.

Figure 18: Domestic Enrolment Headcounts and Proportions in Total Enrolment (2012 to 2017)

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive

Notes:
1. Includes Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education.
2. The bar chart indicates total domestic headcount.
3. The blue line indicates the proportion of total undergraduate enrolment that is contributed by the total domestic headcount.
4. The Domestic Enrolment Headcounts numbers shown for 2015/16 and 2016/17 differ by 14 and 16 respectively from what was reported in 2015 and 2016 annual reports, as the current data no longer includes students in the Career Preparation Program of Faculté Saint-Jean. Beginning from 2015/16, Career Preparation Program data was separated from undergraduate data.
4.2 ORIGIN AT TIME OF APPLICATION, UNDERGRADUATE

In 2017/18, the proportion of our undergraduate students with home addresses in Edmonton and area decreased moderately to 49.8 per cent. Over the past four years, the rest of Alberta has contributed 25 per cent, while the rest of Canada contributed nine per cent to our total undergraduate enrolment. In 2017/18, regions outside of Canada contributed 16.7 per cent of the university’s undergraduate population, representing a moderate increase from 2016/17. Students coming from outside of Canada are not always international as they may be Canadian citizens or permanent residents. In the same way, students originating from within Canada are not always domestic.

Figure 19: Distribution of Undergraduate Students by Permanent Home Address at Time of Application (2012 to 2017)

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive

Notes:
1. Includes Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education.
2. Edmonton and Surrounding Areas include Edmonton, Sherwood Park, St. Albert, Spruce Grove, Leduc, Fort Saskatchewan, Stony Plain and Beaumont.
3. Outside Canada percentages listed do not equate to the university’s undergraduate international enrolment. Students listing an address outside of Canada may be study-permit students, Canadian citizens, or permanent residents.
4. The ratios shown for 2012/13, 2014/15 do not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.
4.3 PROVINCE OF HOME ADDRESS AT TIME OF APPLICATION, UNDERGRADUATE

As explained in section 4.2, students with permanent home addresses outside of Canada constitute approximately 17 per cent of all undergraduates while those from within Canada make up the remaining 83 per cent. Among those who originate from within Canada, 90 per cent came from Alberta just like in the previous year.

British Columbia (BC) remains the second largest source of students coming from within Canada. The proportion of students from BC was five per cent in each of 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18. In addition, Saskatchewan and Ontario have each contributed approximately 1.5 per cent over the past several years.

One of the tactics to support our Institutional Strategic Plan, For the Public Good, is a national recruitment strategy that is expected to increase diversity among the students we source within Canada, be they domestic or international. Although early success in increasing new direct-entry intake from out-of-province has been achieved, these numbers are not yet large enough to significantly impact overall enrolment.

Figure 20: Province of Origin among Students with Permanent Home Addresses in Canada (2012 to 2017)

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive
Figure 21: Province of Origin among Students with Permanent Home Addresses in Canada (2017)
5. ABORIGINAL UNDERGRADUATE ENROLMENT

5.1 TOTAL ABORIGINAL ENROLMENT HEADCOUNT, UNDERGRADUATE

The university’s data on Aboriginal enrolment is based on student self-identification and is likely underreported. Based on the number of self-identified students, total Aboriginal enrolment headcounts maintained a long-term uptrend, increasing from 916 in 2012/13 to 1,012 in 2016/17. In 2017/18, total Aboriginal enrolment headcounts followed this trend and reached 1,081, increasing by 69 from the preceding academic year. Likewise, the proportion of Aboriginal students in total headcount has now reached 3.4 percent from 3.3 per cent in 2016/17. With respect to domestic students only, Aboriginal headcount constitutes 3.9 per cent, which is also an increase relative to the last year.

From the University Calendar, “The University recognizes that Aboriginal applicants have traditionally been under represented in higher education, and strives towards having the university’s Aboriginal student population attain a level that is at least proportionate to the Aboriginal population of the province.” Statistics Canada’s National Household Survey of 2016 indicated that Aboriginal people comprise 6.5 per cent of Alberta’s population. Our Institutional Strategic Plan, For the Public Good, echoes the commitment to engage Indigenous students and nations, with a specific focus on developing and implementing an undergraduate recruitment and retention strategy to attract Indigenous students from across Alberta and Canada.

Figure 22: Aboriginal Enrolment Headcounts and Proportions in Total Enrolment (2012 to 2017)

Source: Office of the Registrar, December 1 REGSTATS Archive
Note: Includes Postgraduate Medical and Dental Education.

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3 2016 – 17 University Calendar > uab.ca/calendar > Undergraduate Admission > General Admission Requirements > Admission of Aboriginal Applicants
5 University of Alberta Institutional Strategic Plan For the Public Good > Build > Objective 1 > Strategy 2
5.2 ABORIGINAL APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION TRENDS, UNDERGRADUATE

Aboriginal applications and admissions increased in 2017/18. The number of new-to-university applicants increased by only four headcounts from 744 in 2016/17 to 748 in 2017/18. Among the applicants, 68 per cent or 510 applicants were admitted. The 68.2 per cent Aboriginal admission rate is higher than the new-to-university Aboriginal admission rate of 2016/17 which was 65.9 per cent. The 2017/18 new-to-university Aboriginal admission rate is also higher than the undergraduate admission rate of 62.4 per cent (among all new-to-university applicants) and 64.7 per cent (among all applicants). However, registration among admitted new-to-university Aboriginal applicants decreased mildly from 346 in 2016/17 to 329 in 2017/18 as the yield rate decreased from 70.6 per cent in 2016/17 to 64.5 per cent in 2017/18. Further Aboriginal data is discussed in section 6.4.

Figure 24: New-to-University Aboriginal Applicants, Admission and Registration (2012 to 2017)

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report
6. RETENTION AND COMPLETION RATES
6.1 STUDENT RETENTION, YEAR 1 TO YEAR 2, UNDERGRADUATE

The institution continues to witness higher retention rates. The proportion of our students who return for the second year of study increased steadily from 82.2 per cent in 2008/09 to 88.3 per cent in 2016/17. In 2017/18, year one to year two retention increased further to 89.8 per cent. Students returning for their second year of study either return to their first year program or to a different program. In 2017/18, the proportion returning to their first year program increased from the preceding year to reach 77.1 per cent. Based on the long term trend, fewer students are changing programs after their first year of study. The proportion of students returning to a different program reached a high of 14.5 per cent in 2011/12 and then decreased to 13 per cent 2014/15. In 2017/18 the proportion of year one to year two program change decreased further to 12.7 per cent. Overall, the data indicates increased retention within programs and an increased institutional retention rate. The increasing trend in retention rate aligns with the university’s desire to enroll high quality students who pose less tendency of withdrawing or being required to withdraw from programs. The trend points to increasing successes with the retention strategies adopted by various units across the institution.

Figure 25: Proportions of First-Year Undergraduates who Returned for their Second Year of Study (2008 to 2017)

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Retention Rates Table
6.2 STUDENT RETENTION, YEAR 1 TO YEAR 2, DOMESTIC UNDERGRADUATE

Year one to year two retention rate among domestic students is higher than the overall year one to year two retention rate discussed in section 6.1. In 2017/18 academic year, 90 per cent of domestic first year undergraduates of the previous year returned for the second year of study. Just like the overall year one to year two retention rate discussed in section 6.1, this year’s retention rate among domestic first year students is the highest in modern records. In addition, much like the overall trend, a significant proportion of retuning domestic students return to their first year faculty while the proportion with faculty change continues to diminish by the year. In 2017/18, only 11.3 per cent of domestic first year students returned to a different second year faculty while 78.7 per cent returned to the same faculty.

Figure 26: Proportions of First-Year Domestic Undergraduates who Returned for their Second Year of Study [2008 to 2017]

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Retention Rates Table
6.3 STUDENT RETENTION, YEAR 1 TO YEAR 2, INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE

Unlike domestic first year retention rate, which has exhibited a strong and uninterrupted uptrend since 2013/14, retention among international first year students experienced a decline between 2013/14 and 2015/16, but recovered to a new high of 86.7 per cent in 2016/17. In 2017/18, international first year retention has further improved and another new high of 88.6 per cent has been reached. International students are more likely than their domestic counterparts to change from their first year faculty. Whereas the proportion of domestic first year students who return to a different second year faculty has ranged between 11.3 per cent and 14.3 per cent over the past ten years (Figure 26), between 15.3 per cent and 21 per cent of international students returned to different faculty. In 2017/18, the proportion of international students returning to a different faculty is 19.4 per cent while 69.2 per cent returned to their first year faculty. In summary, although the overall inter-faculty mobility among students appears to be decreasing (section 6.1), almost all of that decrease is attributable to domestic students (section 6.2). The rate of faculty change among international students continues to remain high and has even increased in the past two years.

Figure 27: Proportions of First-Year International Undergraduates who Returned for their Second Year of Study (2008 to 2017)

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Retention Rates Table
6.4 STUDENT RETENTION, YEAR 1 TO YEAR 2, ABORIGINAL UNDERGRADUATE

With respect to enrolment proportions, the most significant increase observed in 2017/18, for year one to year two retention rate is among Aboriginal students. 91.1 per cent of first-year Aboriginal students returned for their second year of study in 2017/18. This increase of 13.6 per cent from the previous year represents approximately 35 persons. The proportion returning to their first year faculty increased to 80.9 per cent from 68.8 per cent in the preceding year. The increase in Aboriginal retention rate is mostly attributable to a higher Aboriginal retention rate within the BEd Elementary program and to a lesser extent, the Bachelor of Arts program.

Figure 28: Proportions of First-Year Aboriginal Undergraduates who Returned for their Second Year of Study [2008 to 2017]

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Applicant and Enrolment Management Report, Retention Rates Table
6.5 SIX-YEAR PROGRAM COMPLETION RATES, UNDERGRADUATE DIRECT ENTRY

Over the past eight years, the proportion of direct entry undergraduate students who have completed their programs in six years or less have ranged between 66.9 and 69.2 per cent with an average of 67.9 per cent. Six-year completion rate in 2017 is 67.6 per cent.

*Figure 29: Proportion of Yearly Direct Entry Cohorts who Graduate within Six Years of First Admission to an Undergraduate Program*

![Graph showing six-year completion rates for different cohort years]

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Acorn Institutional Data Warehouse

Notes:
1. The cohort for each year comprises direct entry students with first admission to an undergraduate program. This excludes transfer students.
2. The students in each cohort who graduated from the university in any undergraduate program, within six years, are defined as completers.
6.6 GRADUATION HEADCOUNT, UNDERGRADUATE

The university graduated 6,303 undergraduate students in 2017/18. Domestic students represented approximately 88.9 per cent of the graduating headcount while international students constituted the remaining 11.1 per cent. Domestic national status at the time of graduation may not always mean that the student had enrolled as a domestic student as some students may have obtained permanent resident or citizenship status in the course of their studies. Over the past ten years, both the number and the proportion of graduating international students have increased progressively. The proportion of international students in the undergraduate graduation headcount increased from 3.1 per cent in 2008 to 6.1 percent in 2013 to 11.1 percent in 2017. Due to the possibility of some formerly international students obtaining domestic national status during their program, the proportion of graduating international students is likely less than the total proportion that were admitted as international.

Our annual undergraduate graduation headcount has a lagged relationship with enrolment headcount and retention rates. Factors such as enrolment management to deliberately limit our enrolment headcount to institutional targets will correlate with the number of headcounts that graduate a few years later. The downtrend in total graduation headcount between 2014 and 2017 corresponds to the downtrend in total enrolment headcount since 2012/13 (Figure 1).

Figure 30: Undergraduate Graduation Headcount (2008 to 2017)

Source: Strategic Analysis and Data Warehousing, Acorn Institutional Data Warehouse

Note: Numbers shown are as of December 31 of the specified year.
CLOSING REMARKS

It has been a record year for undergraduate enrolment at the University of Alberta. We saw an increase in applications over the preceding enrolment cycle, and record-high total undergraduate enrolment. Enrolment for 2017/18 was 1.3 per cent above the institutional target due to unprecedented demand for our programs from both domestic and international applicants. Additionally, the diversity of our undergraduate population increased, and the overall proportion of Aboriginal students within the total student headcount reached a record high.

We will continue to support the university’s objective to “Build a diverse, inclusive community of exceptional students from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and the world” through the combined efforts of our national and international recruitment strategies, and strategic enrolment management. One of our priorities remains increasing the diversity of our undergraduate student population while being accessible and competitive in the university landscape.

We are looking forward to the next year and the ongoing challenge of refining our enrolment management practices to ensure another successful result. In addition to our continued collaboration with faculties and other stakeholders, we are looking at new technology and processes to the benefit of our students and the university as a whole.