**ATS Artifact for 7.3**

7.3 - **Beth and Samuel**- Admissions Policies  (Samuel please take a look - where do we clearly define our admissions policies, how are they accessed, how do we encourage diversity; and when/how do we review these policies - ASAC?  In the new Admissions Task Force annually?  If this is not already in place, be free with Lindsey's input to articulate afresh a best routine for review and evaluation of those procedures)

 As a seminary community, we put a strong emphasis on personal engagement with our students to ensure their growth and flourishing, both as servant leaders in the Church and World, but also as beloved children of God. This process of personalized care and support begins even before a student begins classes through a high contact, discernment focused, admissions process. The expectations for our application process are clearly articulated on our website (<https://udts.dbq.edu/admissions/mdivmamdmartapplication/>) and are sourced from pages 10 & 11 from our student handbook.

These expectations are also woven into the contact that the admissions department has with prospective students, allowing those exploring their options better understand how their application process not only shows academic capability, but helps bring clarity in discernment and prepares the school to be able to serve the student more effectively.

 As part of our mission in raising up effective leaders for the Church and World of today, UDTS strives to be a place which holds to a “big tent,” approach to Christian Community. We seek to be a place of welcome for all people who are committed to developing their personal faith and show evidence of academic talent and potential for leadership in God's church. Because of our commitment to this approach, we are blessed to have a student body of diverse socio-economic backgrounds, denominational and political affiliations and from a wide range of regional contexts. We are also proud of the work we have done to be fully affirming of our LGBTQ students, faculty and staff, and give thanks to God for the rich diversity in gender identity that is seen in our students and staff as well.

 Looking to areas of growth in areas of diversity, we acknowledge that due to our large emphasis of serving rural communities, largely in the Midwest and rocky mountain regions, that we have fallen short of finding the same breathe of diversity in racial and ethnic backgrounds as we have in other areas. Our admissions strategy, which has grown out of a number of meetings over the last few years has been created to try and address this shortfall in a few ways.

1. UDTS is seeking, working alongside the University Advancement Department, to create a new scholarship fund specifically for disenfranchised minority populations, allowing for more accessibility to our programs.
2. Working to revitalize our Native-American studies program that has laid dormant since the mid-2000s.
3. Continue to seek to serve new populations through the expansion of our Learning Communities in surrounding urban areas, bringing our classrooms to the communities and neighborhoods that would be served most by our presence.