The Admissions Office had a record year for applicants for the third consecutive year, with 2,106 applicants, of which 358 were offered an interview. This class also had a record 8 non-Florida residents in the matriculating class, which again showed great diversity: 10% (12) were underrepresented, 40% (48) represented minority groups, 19% (23) had obtained a Master’s Degree or PhD (2), and 35 undergraduate programs were represented. While our majority populations from undergrad schools is always dominated by UF and USF, this year is an anomaly in that this class has a majority population from USF (31) over UF (26). We anticipate that the primary reason for this was that this class also was the result of our biggest payoff from the 7-Year Honors Program, which provided 11 members of the starting class. Eight of these Honors Program students were from USF, while the remaining three came from UCF.

The MSSC had a successful retreat on August 4, 2006. In addition to the members of the Committee and the staffs of the Office of Diversity and Medical Admissions, Drs. Klasko and Wallach were present for a portion of the retreat. A variety of important issues were explored, including reassessment of interview forms, additional optimization of applications from underserved and underrepresented student populations, and potential strategies for the next ten years, when additional medical schools are opened in Florida. The MSSC is committed to a general evaluation of our process and attempts to determine if our efforts predict outcomes. Dr. Nazian, with the help of Dr. Goldin in the Department of Surgery, has initiated a project to administer several testing instruments that assess emotional intelligence in our current first year class. Our goal is to evaluate these instruments and their potential utility in selecting students and predicting success in clinical arenas. We will also use this information to determine if the efforts we are currently using are effective in assessing the non-quantitative aspects of applicants. Attracting the best students to USF COM will require our best efforts in providing information about the growth and strengths of USF, particularly the clinical opportunities in a dynamic metropolitan area and the success of USF research development. One of the venues for informing applicants is during the interview process. This component of the interview was emphasized during a workshop for interviewers held on Monday, September 11, 2006. This workshop was on the North Campus and viewed at All Childrens’ Hospital and Tampa General Hospital. The new interview form was also discussed during this session. Both the retreat and the interview workshop are important elements to successfully prepare for the beginning of a new year of work to assemble the best class of students possible.

Finally, the Committee Chair and administrative officers wish to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the Committee members throughout the year. It is estimated that during the interview season the average Committee member spent approximately 60-70 hours in review of applications prior to the meetings, and approximately the same amount
of time during the 23 evening meetings and 358 applicant interviews. In addition, MSSC members interviewed 34 7-year Honors Program students and 7 Medical Science MS students, meeting twice to consider these groups of applicants. Thus, during the interview season, a member of the MSSC devotes three to four 40-hour work weeks to this critical mission.