Assessment Proposal on Fall 2015 MiT Admits

In order to obtain

* more evidence about candidates’ writing skills
* and more evidence about candidates’ dispositions including responsiveness to
* and to evaluate the feasibility of in-person and/or Skype interview for implementation, content, and overall value for time and effort expended as pre or post admissions tool

it is proposed there be a pilot project spring 2015 (probably mid-late June) on fall 2015 admits to MiT which would include:

1. Selecting a date for MiT faculty to review an “almost-live” writing sample and conduct a 10-15 minute interview on each person by Skype/in-person. All MiT faculty would be asked to participate, and split into teams of two, to include at least one faculty on each team who will be working with the entering cohort. Each partner team would evaluate 13-15 candidates.
2. Admit would be notified of date and time to be available for completing a writing assignment, and also an interview. Admit would be sent writing prompt at assigned time and asked to respond within (TBD) minutes (say sent at 8:30 am and asked to respond by 9:30 am). Writing prompt would be some type of scenario requiring the candidate to engage with problem-solving and identify what he/she wondered about the scenario, how he/she made sense of it, and how he/she would respond to the described situation. Directions would emphasize there is not a “right” answer the faculty is expecting, rather, the faculty wants to see the current thinking of the candidate and writing skill in a time-sensitive situation.
3. Faculty would review the submitted essays and prepare possible feedback and further probing questions for each candidate to be asked during the interview.
4. Faculty would conduct interviews, attending to how the candidate related to them in the dialogue about their work – how did the candidate react to feedback? Respond to probing questions?

It is anticipated the writing sample and interview will provide additional information to cohort faculty that may assist with planning how to support the candidate(s), and influence program planning. The process will also be evaluated for whether to be offered again, and/or if adapted as part of the actual application process for the future, or keep as part of the post-admissions process. Meanwhile, the college is investigating CRM systems and on-line application vendors this year, and Maggie will have more information by 2015 about if a new system might include a feature to upload videos from applicants.