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Office of the Academic Senate
SANTA CRUZ DIVISION
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March 22, 2023

SUSAN D. COCHRAN, Chair
Academic Council

RE: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission

Dear Susan,

The Santa Cruz Division of the Academic Senate has completed its review of the proposed conforming amendments to the Senate regulations on admission. The Committees on Affirmative Action and Diversity (CAAD), Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA), Educational Policy (CEP), and Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections (CRJE) have provided responses. The reviewing committees were generally appreciative of these conforming changes that eliminate standardized tests as a requirement for admission to the University of California. The committees also identified several areas of the regulations that could use further clarification.

CAFA did not find any issues to note and approved of the proposed amendments. CAAD went further stating that they “are heartened to see that the policy codifies the removal of standardized testing for admission, following the research that indicates clear bias in such testing.” This is where the similarities end, however.

One of CAAD’s critiques was that the regulations will bar the use of standardized tests for admissions purposes yet continue to evaluate whether or not a candidate meets the Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). CAAD noted “It is duplicitous to state that standardized tests are not required for admission, then use the same tests to meet UC requirements.” Similarly, CRJE noted that the policy still references standardized tests, commenting, “Members identified potential issues of conformity with existing policy. Specifically, the revised Regents Policy 2102 contains, under “Procedures and related documents,” a link to *Guidelines for implementation of undergraduate admissions*.” In subsection II.11 of the referenced policy there is language, which provides, “Standardized tests and academic indices as part of the review process must be considered in the context of other factors that impact performance, including personal and academic circumstances (e.g. low-income status, access to honors courses, and college-going culture of the school).”

CEP and CAAD would both like to see the term “compare favorably” defined and clarified. This is a term of art very familiar to members of the divisional committees on admissions but is not well understood to those without a working knowledge of admissions policy. CEP described the issue, writing: “The term *compare favorably* is quite vague and the article would benefit from a more precise description of how the comparison between California resident and non-resident students is made beyond the minimum GPA requirement of 3.4.” CAAD and CEP would like to see information included, or perhaps referenced, that would clarify what this means in practice.

CAAD was critical of the policy’s “scholarship requirement” that sets the qualifying GPA standard at 3.4. As the committee noted, “While rewarding success in traditional academics can be important, this is not the only reason that scholarships are awarded. Indeed, scholarships may variously appeal to students who have lower GPAs due to unequal access, life impacts . . .” The committee further commented that for these reasons, a qualifying GPA could be 2.0.

Another area that was identified as needing clarification was the new language prohibiting preferential treatment and interference in admission. CAAD was left guessing as to what specific situation this is intended to address. They were also leery of a potential negative impact on “strategies needed to address the harms of systemic racism” that might be brought on by the overbroad language.

Finally, CEP wanted to see explicit language on how non-traditional student files are viewed, such as candidates who have been home schooled.

On behalf of the Santa Cruz Division, I thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this significant policy, and hope that they prove valuable in their continued development.

Sincerely,



Patty Gallagher, Chair

Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

encl: Senate Committee Responses (Bundled)

cc: Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Chair, Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (CAAD)
Laura Giuliano, Chair, Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA)
David Cuthbert, Chair, Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)
Eleonora Pasotti, Chair, Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections (CRJE)
Matthew Mednick, Executive Director, Academic Senate

February 16, 2023

Patty Gallagher, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

RE: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission:

Dear Patty,

The Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (CAAD) has reviewed the proposed revisions to policy documents related to standardized testing and undergraduate admissions. The committee recognizes that equity and excellence are paired rather than opposed, and the committee offers the following feedback to ensure that all students are fully supported as admissions criteria shift.

In general, CAAD is heartened to see that the policy codifies the removal of standardized testing for admission, following the research that indicates clear bias in such testing. The committee wants to make sure, however, that the effort to remove standardized testing from all aspects of admissions is complete, including the related removal of standardized testing from placement processes that take place as/when students are admitted. It is duplicitous to state that standardized tests are not required for admission, then use the same tests to meet UC requirements. For example, SAT scores can still be used to meet the Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR).

The committee was confused by the addition of a single sentence: “467. Non-resident domestic and international students admitted to a campus should compare favorably to California residents admitted at that campus.” There is no elaboration, and there is already detailed policy language regarding international admissions (including how courses taken in other languages will be accepted, etc.). As such, CAAD feels that adding this general sentence creates more problems than it solves.

CAAD also noticed that the policy sets the GPA for “scholarship requirements” at 3.4. While rewarding success in traditional academics can be important, this is not the only reason that scholarships are awarded. Indeed, scholarships may variously appeal to students who have lower GPAs due to unequal access, life impacts, etc. The 2.0 standard used elsewhere in the policy (428, 476) seems sufficient for scholarships.

Finally, in the prefacing documents, the “background” section notes several “notable” changes, one of which is: “Included language prohibiting preferential treatment and interference in admission.” The committee is unclear what this addresses (nepotism?), and further, we are concerned that in our current political environment, terms like “preferential treatment” have been inappropriately but commonly used to describe strategies that consider race and affirmative action. For this reason, CAAD suggests that BOARS be more specific in its language to avoid any implied critiques of strategies needed to address the harms of systemic racism.

Thank you for the opportunity to consider this policy revision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirsten Silva Gruesz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Chair
Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity

cc: Laura Giuliano, Chair, Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
David Lee Cuthbert, Chair, Committee on Educational Policy
Eleonora Pasotti, Chair, Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections

February 13, 2023

PATTY GALLAGHER, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Re: Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission

Dear Patty,

During its meeting of February 8, 2023, the Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA) reviewed the amendments to Senate regulations that have been proposed by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) for the purposes of (1) aligning them to recent policy actions on use of standardized testing in undergraduate admission and (2) conforming them to the recent consolidation of Regents Standing Orders and associated policies on admissions.

No concerns were raised, and CAFA approved of the proposed revisions.

Sincerely

/s/

Laura Giuliano, Chair
Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid

cc: Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Chair, Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (CAAD)
David Cuthbert, Chair, Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)
Kent Eaton, Chair, Committee on International Education (CIE)
Eleonora Pasotti, Chair, Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections (CRJE)

February 16, 2023

Patty Gallagher, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Re: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission

Dear Patty,

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) has reviewed the proposed conforming amendments to Senate Regulations 419, 428, 440, 450, 452, 464, and 465 as well as the addition of Senate regulation 467. We would like to pose several questions for consideration.

Article 467 states that “non-resident...students admitted to a campus should compare favorably to California residents admitted to that campus.” The term *compare favorably* is quite vague and the article would benefit from a more precise description of how the comparison between California resident and non-resident students is made beyond the minimum GPA requirement of 3.4.

CEP would like to see explicit attention paid to how non-traditional student files are reviewed (e.g.-homeschooled students lacking a high school GPA), in order to provide a clearer pathway to admission for such students.

Sincerely,



David Lee Cuthbert, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

cc: Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Chair, Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity
Laura Giuliano, Chair, Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Eleanora Pasotti, Chair, Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections

February 6, 2023

PATTY GALLAGHER, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

Re: Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission

Dear Patty,

During its meeting of January 31, 2023, the Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections (CRJE) reviewed the proposed revisions to the Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission.

Members identified potential issues of conformity with existing policy. Specifically, the revised Regents Policy 2102 contains, under “Procedures and related documents,” a link to *Guidelines for implementation of undergraduate admissions*.¹ The latter guidelines, which were not among the documents circulated for review, still references standardized testing requirements in Section II.11 and Section III.A.2.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation.

Sincerely

/s/

Eleonora Pasotti, Chair

Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections

cc: Kirsten Silva Gruesz, Chair, Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (CAAD)
Laura Giuliano, Chair, Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA)
David Cuthbert, Chair, Committee on Educational Policy (CEP)
Kent Eaton, Chair, Committee on International Education (CIE)

¹ <https://www.ucop.edu/enrollment-services/policies/guidelines-for-implementation-of-undergraduate-admissions--rev-7-2019.pdf>