

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
January 18, 2008
Minutes

Present: Richard Hughey, Amy Weaver, Bruce Cooperstein, David Anthony, Nathan Zaru (SUA), Scott Oliver, Juan Poblete, Karlton Hester, Matthew Palm (SUA), Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Guests: AVC Michelle Whittingham, Advisor Cheryl Perazzo, Acting Director Michael McCawley, Advisor Kori Calubaquib

Announcements

Chair Hughey met with the Admissions evaluations staff (readers) and emphasized math and writing. Their message was clearer - more faculty involvement is needed in admission activities. Chair Hughey is contacting department chairs to participate in the outreach email campaign. Eight have signed up.

Senate Executive Committee (SEC) January 15 meeting recap:

- Due to the state budget crisis the deans were asked to look at where to cut 10% from the 2008-09 budget. Student fees that were projected to go up 7% may now go up 10%. The budget impact on faculty salary scales is unknown and there will be no “new” hires next year.
- There is the perception that faculty who brought food to the tree sitting protesters may have been harassed by administration with threats of arrest. Several students and one professor have been cited for aiding and abetting the protesters.
- SEC continued the discussion on the development of professional schools at UCSC.
- Senate committees were asked to comment on the CCGA/UCEP/ITTP ‘Dialectic’ Paper on Remote/Online Instruction. There is already online learning for college prep. Chair Hughey will respond that it is not the purview of CAFA and is more for the Committee on Planning and Budget and the Committee on Educational Policy. The paper will be posted on the committee’s password web page for review.
- Three candidates for the School of Engineering dean recruitment will visit the campus in February.
- The November 30 minutes were approved and will be posted to the committee’s public web site.

Revised Laptop Proposal

Last year CAFA commented on a draft proposal that would require all students to have a laptop. The committee expressed concern that 10% was earmarked for IT support and felt all money coming in from the program should go to financial aid for students in need to purchase laptops. The Committee on Computing and Telecommunications (CCT) agreed with the feedback and submitted a revised proposal for consideration. Comments on the revised proposal include the following:

- The Fall 2008 target implementation date does not allow time to incorporate the requirement into Admissions materials. The wording of the proposal should be changed from required to “strongly recommends”.
- The requirement could have a significant impact on decision to come here so an implicit policy is needed to take of the student’s (consumer) concern.
- Currently 85% of undergrad students have laptops.
- Work is needed this year to develop the process for how this will work. CAFA supports this becoming a requirement no sooner than the fall of 2009. It can be recommended, but not required before then.
- Laptops need wireless access component, which is not in the proposal. Can the campus handle the projected volume of wireless computer if this proposal is implemented?
- For students and their families who will decide on computer purchase for graduation presents we want to guide them to buy a laptop.
- Nationwide there is a growing trend to require computers and laptops. Private universities have lead the way, but also have the resources to support it.
- At SJSU the requirement is departmental, not campus wide. This requirement is field dependent and not all students are using their laptops in class for class work. Music students don’t need laptops, but History students use them to access archival data for classroom discussion. Some faculty dissuade students from bringing their laptops to class.
- The requirement needs to be meaningful for students.
- Will aid be in the form of loans or grants? Funding is limited and support for laptop ownership is critical for low-income students.
- The requirement may be about access, but not limited to laptops. Would a PDA, iphone or other hand held tool meet the requirement?

Proposed Academic Standards for Regents Scholars

CAFA discussed the three requirements and two levels of probation proposed for Regents Scholars. Students will be evaluated each quarter and have the ability to appeal. The standards will be finalized and communicated this quarter and implemented spring quarter for spring grades. Currently there are two students who would be on probation.

Should 15 credits per quarter be required for the first term? Colleges may recommend less than 15 credits in the first quarter for transition purposes. The provosts can waive this requirement on a case by case basis for the first quarter only. Develop a procedure for provosts to handle this type of situation.

There is currently no mentoring or counseling mechanism for Regents Scholars. Financial Aid will do one-on-one coaching and coordination between Financial Aid, CAFA, provosts and preceptors will be established.

Level Two probation language needs to be explicit and a process map created.

Proposed Undergrad Merit Scholarship Program

The proposal for Fall 2008 combines three programs to more effectively recruit and retain top students and creates one selection process which will allow for better matching of funds to students. The confirmation of \$250,000 to implement this program provides the campus with a predictable and sustainable program. Additional funding will be needed.

A summary of the annual and cumulative per student award amounts for Regents Scholarships, Alumni Scholarships and Campus Merit Scholarships was provided.

With limited funding for Regents Scholars we've had a good yield the past two years. CAFA had hoped the campus would provide additional funding, but that has not happened. The Office of the President (OP) provides \$784,000 annually for Regents Scholars. For a sustainable funding model we could not have funded any new students this year. Regents Scholars with need can receive up to \$12,000 per year and many of them also ask for work-study.

Invitations to the program will be organized around recruitment for entering students. Advisor Perazzo said there is a program for continuing students and Financial Aid will look at their grades over the summer. There are also alumni scholarships and campus merits for continuing students.

In spring quarter CAFA will review student performance in detail and compare high school performance to first year performance. CAFA could reconsider the reallocation of funds next year as long as it's prior to offers going out.

This is a unique package but we need to build in merit at the UCSC level and use it as a fundraising tool.

Admissions

OP will provide Fall 08 application numbers in a press release next week. Systemwide preliminary data shows a 9.2% increase in frosh applications, a 28% increase in African American applicants, a 1.9% increase for American Indians, a 9.3% increase in Asians and 11.5% increase for transfer students. Last year transfer students were down 5.2%.

Systemwide frosh GPAs were flat - 3.67 this year, 3.66 last year.

Data on the UCSC application pool will be provide at the next meeting.

The current "Your University" brochure was distributed. A brochure on the colleges was added this year to address students questions on how do you select one, how does it compare to another UCs.

The committee felt that the brand placement of a Compaq laptop in the center of a full page picture with arrows leading from the logo was a mistake.

Starting this month the yield campaign will utilize “apply yourself” emails (two a month) to departments and students. Last year emails were sent in March.

Last year 750 people attended the chancellor’s receptions. Receptions will be repeated in Los Angeles and Orange County and new ones held in San Jose and Oakland. Last year invitations went to high academic achievers. This year more students of color will be invited with the intent of increasing overall diversity.