

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
March 14, 2008
Minutes

Present: Karlton Hester, David Anthony, Mathew Palm (SUA), Amy Weaver (NSTF),
Scott Oliver, Juan Poblete, Bruce Cooperstein, Pamela Edwards (ASO)
Absent: Richard Hughey, Nathan Zaru (SUA)
Guests: AVC Michelle Whittingham, Acting Director Michael McCawley, Director Ann
Draper, Advisor Cheryl Perazzo

Announcements

Professor Poblete will serve as chair pro tem for today's meeting.

At the March 11 meeting the Senate Executive Committee discussed faculty salaries, the Committee on Computing and Telecommunications' (CCT) laptop requirement proposal and the Winter Academic Senate meeting. CAFA will discuss the CCT proposal at the April 11 meeting.

The February 22 draft minutes were approved.

Regents' Task Force on Diversity Reports

CAFA discussed the Diversity reports and the impact of Proposition 209. The committee agrees with the concepts in the report, but it's difficult to know how it will be implemented, especially in the current budget climate.

High schools already respond to state and federal standards and now we're adding another UC layer. The reports are a good gesture, but recommendations have been made for years. It's time to stop talking and move forward.

AB540 students are those who have completed three years of high school in California, but do not have full legal status (or it may have lapsed). There is an effort at UC to provide services to this diverse cohort. AB540 students tend to stay invisible and are hard to count. UCSC has approximately 70 such students.

Outreach programs that impact diversity were gutted five years ago. Concern was raised that resources for academic preparation and support through graduation be fully funded and not targeted for cuts.

In general members support the document and further implementation of proposals already on the table. CAFA would also like to identify good practices currently being done on this campus such as UC Prep and the full 6 percent use of Admissions by Exception (AbyE).

Poblete, Zaru, Whittingham and Weaver will draft the committee's response and circulate it on Monday for feedback.

Admissions

At midnight tonight UCSC will release admission decisions - 20,152 frosh admits, 2500 transfer admits and over 7000 denials. The majority of denials, 5000, are UC eligible. This is twice as many as last year and our highest number yet. Eligible students who do not get an offer from any UC will go into the referral pool and will probably receive an offer from Merced or Riverside.

UCSC's frosh admit target is 3700, the same as enrolled frosh last year. The admit GPA rate is 3.70 versus 3.67 last year. The target for fall transfer students is 850, 50 more than last year and 200-300 more graduate students. The winter transfer target is the same as last year though it's too early to know. The Diversity Report recommended an increase in winter transfer students.

Santa Barbara increased admits by 1300 last week, which will impact other UCs.

Admission decisions are set by CAFA, which determines the cutoff for the computed index score for eligible students each year and some committees are more stringent than others. The Committee wants to be on clear on standards, such as the grades in the senior year count, but does not want to publicize a statement that will constrain Admissions.

The UC application, outreach efforts and two Comprehensive Review criteria speak to the importance of the senior year. UCSC's Conditions of Admission letter also refers to it and Admissions will sometimes send a letter of concern to students with borderline grades. CAFA would like to review the existing language of Admission letters, emails and brochures in advance to see if existing language needs to be edited.

Admissions will hold 100 spots for appeals. The chancellor can make AbyE decisions, but only after consulting with the CAFA chair.

CAFA agreed to support the following appeals process.

- Students will be admitted if a mistake was made with their review

- The level of discretion for appeals is 100-200 points from the cutoff

- Appeals for students with grades that go down in their senior year will be denied 100 percent of the time

BOARS

Regents Chair Blum is visiting campuses to discuss a centralized admissions review that would uphold the philosophy of each campus and allow for the review of applicants from other campuses. Faculty determine admissions standards and concerned was raised that this would violate shared governance.

The revised BOARS Eligibility Modification is being circulated for comment and addresses concerns raised with the original one such as the cost for reading all applications. The UC application fee is \$60 and \$40 goes to the campus.

Recent initiatives by the Ivy leagues to bring in underrepresented students will impact UCs. The BOARS discussion on this has been informal so far.

Reading Essays

Every student who submitted an essay will receive funding. Readers will determine which award pool they land in and one in four will be selected as a Regents Scholars.

There were 237 essays returned which is less than last year. The reduced honorarium could have had an impact.

CAFA again sent a message to all Senators requesting volunteers to read the essays. More volunteers responded than were needed. Consistent feedback from the readers is important so each will receive a pack of 20 essays with the same range of computer-indexed scores. Readers will also have access to the entire application packet online if they want a broader context of the student's achievements, honors and awards.