

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
April 11, 2008
Minutes

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

Absent: Nathan Zaru (SUA)

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

Announcements

Chancellor Blumenthal's inauguration will be held on June 6 at the East Field.

CAFA Chair Hughey will serve on the search committee for the new Arts Dean. Members were asked to forward their questions and comments to Hughey.

The memo to Chancellor Blumenthal on UCSC's web presence was sent by CAFA instead of the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) as originally discussed. SEC will follow up on it.

Professor Poblete and Advisor Perazzo will attend the UC Honors Consortium on April 30 in Monterey.

Acting Director McCawley and Chair Hughey are drafting an appeals policy document for committee review.

At the April 25 meeting CAFA will review a list of issues that come before the Committee each year to determine the review cycle.

The graduation rates at UCSC are below the UC average. The Task Force on Retention and Graduation started meeting and will report annually to CP/EVC Kliger in May.

The minutes for the March 14 meeting were approved.

BOARS Revised Proposal to Reform UC's Freshman Eligibility Policy

The Committee discussed the revised proposal, which looks similar to the University of Texas model and noted the additional data and analysis that were provided this time. The guarantee is only for residents of the state of California and provides a mechanism for not calling students "ineligible". The timeline for review and feedback does not fit the level of importance for such a sweeping change of policy and does not allow for requests for additional information.

Members support the increase in Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) to 12.5%, but again expressed concern about the lack of support services if we bring more students in from lower percentile schools.

Simulations showed a lower GPA from the entering class and less diversity. Asian students would be the largest beneficiaries.

African American students under the revised proposal would replace the percent of guarantee with a lower percent for eligible for review.

UC does an annual review of California high schools and only a handful does not offer AP courses. What we don't know is who has access to these courses and who takes them. These aren't addresses in the proposal. Are we really going to be able to sustain this in the long run?

The intent of the proposal is to reach the high schools where we are not getting students. Admission by Exception (AbyE) is not used to the extent that it could be for this purpose. In the Master Plan the UC AbyE maximum is 6 percent. UCSC uses a high percent for AbyE and should continue to consider AbyE due to the local success regardless of if the proposal passes. We strongly suggest the other UCs look closely at using AbyE if this proposal does not go forward.

This is a political issue and compromise that responds to the limitations created by Proposition 209. AbyE is politically changed by virtue of the name Exception. Campuses may view it as affirmative action and avoid it. The revised proposal is not focused on campuses like UCSC, but rather UCLA, etc. The proposal's flexibility for individual campuses will let us consider the intellectual commitment of students from low performing schools. In principal each campus will have control so it won't help with the AbyE issue.

Predictability (transparency) is a critical issue for students and their families. The Committee expressed concern with the manner in which the policy might be communicated if it passes and suggested framing the discussion to focus on the expansion of opportunity and access. UC needs to justify why it's making this sweeping change without pointing out problems with the current policy.

A recommendation was made to review the new process annually to make changes, as needed, on the local level.

The question was called and members voted 4 in favor of the proposal, 0 opposed and 2 abstained. The draft memo with CAFA's feedback will be circulated via email for comment.

Admissions Update

UC will release a media report on Monday with frosh admission numbers. This has been a banner year for applications, UC has have admitted more than in the past and there will be more students in the referral pool.

At UCSC there were more appeals (5,000) this year from students who were eligible, but denied. Admissions did leave some capacity for appeals.

UCSC will participate again in Shared Experience where denied students are offered a guarantee of admission to UCSC if they spend their first two years at Merced. This keeps them in the UC system. Last year 21 Shared Experience offers made last year, but no one took us up on it.

The Admissions Office is still working on transfers and will have them done by the end of the month.

A request was made for the socioeconomic breakdown of applicants, the admitted and AbyE admits and denied cohort.

Yield Efforts

Admissions held four chancellor receptions – two in northern California and two in the south. All were well attended.

Regents Scholar offers went out to 75 students. Other offers include 25 Alumni scholarship, 69 campus merits scholarships and 233 transfer scholarships. Additional merits were offered to 738 needy frosh.