

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Minutes
May 9, 2008

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

Absent: Nathan Zaru (Student rep), Mathew Palm (Student rep)

Guests: Acting Director Michael McCawley, Advisor Cheryl Perazzo, Associate Vice
Chancellor Michelle Whittingham, Director Ann Draper, Analyst Sue Grimes,
Analyst Mary Masters, Director Julian Fernald

Announcements

Chair Hughey reported on the April 29 Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting.
SEC is finalizing its faculty salary proposal to the administration.

The campus will begin drafting a strategic plan while work continues on the academic plans. Information distributed did not include criteria for success in admissions. Vice Chancellor of Planning and Budget Meredith Michaels will provide data on current students and on the development side for scholarships. The plan will go out to Senate committees for feedback.

The minutes for the April 25 meeting were approved with changes.

Honors Consortium

Professor Poblete, Advisor Perazzo and AVC Whittingham provided feedback on the UC Honors Consortium in Monterey. The keynote speaker talked about honors in a university setting and how to build community in this electronic age. Smaller groups discussed recruitment and retention for diversity, how to be inclusive with various entry levels and what honors means in an academic setting at this time in California. UCSC has faculty in residence and other structures based on honors, but we are the only UC campus without a program. Poblete, Perazzo and Whittingham will draft talking points for an honors discussion.

Merit Scholar Essay Debrief

The committee discussed the quality of the essays and prompt used for this year's selection of scholarship recipients and reviewed questions from the previous eight years. Feedback was mixed and included the following:

- Very few responses actually addressed the prompt or specific question, but those who did really stood out.
- Responses were the same as if they were written for another application.
- Select questions that push the students beyond autopilot, make them think vs. feel.
- The question is elitist.
- The question should be inspiring and bring out the best in students.

- Students want to share what got them to this level and its OK to put them in that comfort zone.
- Have the current cohort of Regents Scholars do the prompts and see how they respond.

Most members prefer the questions used in 2000-01 or 2001-06. Professors Cooperstein and Poblete and Director Perazzo will draft principles and essay questions and report back to the committee at the May 30 meeting.

Merit Scholarship Update

Award amounts changed this year and all scholarship programs were merged into one process. Yield data for all merit scholarships was distributed. This was the first year for alumni scholars with twenty offers and three SIR. Next year we'll go out with more offers. Need based campus merits that usually average 10 percent were only 7 percent. Additional offers will be made this summer.

Admissions

Preliminary data shows an 8.7 percent increase in SIRS (4600) for UCSC, a growth in yield from 21% to 23%. All UCs increased as well. The admit rate for UC is less than last year even though this year had the largest high school graduating class in California.

Cal Poly admitted fewer students this year, which has likely affected UCSC. Our admit rate went from 81 percent to 74 percent. For the second year in a row SIRs are up, but our admit rate is down as the campus becomes more selective.

The campus is committed to enrolling 3700 frosh and the committee discussed six possible scenarios to increase the melt to yield that number. CAFA endorsed an extraordinarily low tolerance policy on senior year grades falling short of conditions of admission (listed on the Conditions for Admissions form) and a stricter adherence to presenting UC pattern official test scores by July 15. Deferrals will be automatically approved. Shared Experience to UC Merced will be offered again to students who SIR, though no one participated in this last year.

Chair Hughey will draft a letter to the administration authorizing these policies and clearly asserting CAFA's authority over admissions, cancellations, and appeals.

Data Needs for Comprehensive Review Analysis

The committee discussed ways to evaluate the first 4 years of Comprehensive Review with guests from Institutional Research and Admissions, a scheduled topic for 2008-9. UCSC uses all 14 criteria, and next year's CAFA may wish to adjust weightings, remove criteria, or rethink the entire admissions process. CAFA would like to see which criteria push students to SIR, predict first year success, and consider the attributes of denied students to see if we missing the "diamonds in the rough". All UCs are selecting from the same range of students and retention rates in the system are hard to predict because of six-year graduation rates. Institutional Research will provide demographics and point distribution for each criterion.