

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid  
Minutes  
May 23, 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, Director Ann  
Draper, Vice Provost/Dean Bill Ladusaw, Coordinator Marlene Robinson

**Announcements**

The schedule for the Director of Admissions Candidate open forums was previously distributed. The final forum is on May 28. CAFA member Professor Scott will attend all three forums.

Chair Hughey reported on the May 13 Senate Executive Committee meeting.

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) has two issues on the May 30 Senate meeting agenda of importance to CAFA. General Education (Gen Ed) Reform at UCSC will be presented for discussion only. CEP has consulted with all departments and seeks further discussion and feedback for proposed legislation that will be presented to the Senate in the fall. CEP discussed with the Council of Provosts a proposal to create topical cluster classes that would satisfy certain Gen Ed requirements, be interdisciplinary and taught by ladder rank faculty. In practical terms the clusters would replace Core classes, be run by the colleges and would not be monitored the same way as Core classes.

CEP has proposed an amendment to Regulation 10.4 on Majors and Minors. Historically students may pursue double majors or minors, but can only take overlapping courses at the lower-division level. This could positively impact the recruitment of high achieving students who seek the challenge of a double major or minor (all other UCs provide some degree of overlap).

The minutes for the May 9 meeting were approved.

**Schedule for Policy Review**

Acting Director McCawley will provide the publication schedule for CAFA to review annually. Final changes to the Schedule for Policy Review were approved. The schedule will be posted to the committee's public web site.

**High School Scholars Program**

The Office of Admissions use to administer the High School Scholars Program (HSSP). Four years ago the program was moved to UC Extension where students now enroll. The Committee reviewed the Delegation of Authority statement that delegates to the Office of Admissions the responsibility for updating the academic criteria for the HSSP and

providing UC Extension with an annual update on the level of selectivity for admitting the frosh cohort. Admissions will also provide CAFA with an annual report on HSSP issues. CAFA approved the statement and will post it on the committee's public web site.

### **UC Honors Consultation**

The first annual UC Honors Consortium held in April provided an opportunity to discuss programs and views, which vary widely among the campuses. Common themes were the need to go with the "community of students" and providing a challenging program to keep students engaged.

The title of the keynote speech was "Honors, Democracy and the Me Generation. The speaker raised the issue of looking beyond just the GPA to how campuses define academic excellence and whether it should include leadership or just the individual. A big challenge is making a case for connecting diversity and honors plus creating a community for those students.

The social case was made for redefining student excellence to focus on integrating the high performers with those moving up to build community (the success of Group A would be based on the success of Group B). The individual themes of academic development and achievement were part of the Senate resolution four years ago that created the joint Senate/administration Honors Committee. A campus honors program would improve the academic environment on the entire campus.

Professor Poblete and Coordinator Robinson attended the Recruitment and Retention for Diversity workshop, which had a high faculty attendance. No particular campus has the ideal program and campuses with long standing programs are having their own crisis of conscience. UCSC is in a good position to explore and develop a program that will serve the state of California. Other UCs are considering changes to their current programs.

The narrow view of honors is based on how to get the funding and support for the honors program we want. A broader view looks at what we want to accomplish with an honors program and it would contribute to the state of California.

The current Tidal Wave II high school graduating class is the largest ever. This cohort includes a high number of first generation to attend college students and an increasing percentage of underrepresented and socioeconomic students.

Last fall (2007) CEP's amendment created Latin designations for university honors and established a quarterly Dean's Honor List that will become effective this fall. We need a consensus for mapping what we want to acknowledge next such as honors in the majors and colleges and graduation criterion. CAFA discussed what else besides GPA to consider. An honors program based on GPA can also be based on an increase (challenge) in GPA over time. Community, diversity and leadership are part of the world view of excellence, but there is no consensus on this. We need to challenge at every opportunity the idea that diversity and excellence are in conflict. UCLA has the most robust program

with all honors experiences open to all students, though honor students have priority enrollment.

CAFA discussed the data it would like for review. VP/DUE Ladusaw noted that 17% of high school valedictorians were undocumented students. Data on the incoming frosh and graduation rates for the past 10 years will be requested.

### **Honors Consultation Debrief**

CAFA discussed what, if any, continuing roll it will have with the honors program. The committee felt that regular monitoring was important and agreed to meet with VP/DUE Ladusaw and Coordinator Robinson in the fall and spring quarters.

If the campus decides to go with criteria other than what is traditional, it must be sustainable and of value.

Graduation data looks only at the academic performance and not what the students gained while in the program. The committee will consider other data needs for the ongoing review and development of the honors program.

### **BOARS**

The Regents at their meeting last week discussed the 12.5% allocated for the Eligibility in the Local Context program. Discussion will continue at the July meeting and it is not clear if changes will be proposed.

### **Cancellation Policy**

The Office of Admissions will report all exceptions to CAFA.

### **Area d**

The chairs of three departments submitted a request to CAFA and BOARS to support and endorse a change in UC's Area d (science) admissions requirement regarding the list of courses that students can use for UC admission. The proposal would add the requirement of two to three science courses to the subject areas.

Concern was expressed that Chemistry and Physics are the only majors where science is preparatory and the proposal could impact a student's availability to enter certain majors.

The request is for CAFA to opine to BOARS on the proposal. It is not clear when BOARS might ask for systemwide review for CAFA, CEP and others. Typically BOARS routes policy review requests through the Senate chairs.

Discussion on Area d will continue at the last meeting on May 30.

### **Admissions Update**

The melt has begun and 12 students have been cancelled so far. Last year 11 of those 12 students would have received Letters of Concern instead of Letters of Cancellation. High school counselors are can't believe we're cancelling students who lack one class

requirement. The majority of melt will occur between July 15 and the beginning of September.

The Office of Admissions is still using 4650 as upward target of what might come in for the fall frosh cohort. As of yesterday we were at 4641. Emails messages went out this week warning students who received bad grades to come forward now. Emails messages also went out to students who have not submitted the required test scores stating that they will not be accepted.