

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Minutes
May 30, 2008

Present: Richard Hughey, David Anthony, Juan Poblete, Scott Oliver, Bruce Cooperstein, Mathew Palm (Student rep), Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Amy Weaver (NSTF rep), Karlton Hester, Nathan Zaru (Student rep)

Guests: Acting Director Michael McCawley, Advisor Cheryl Perazzo, Director Ann Draper

Announcements

The Senate Executive Committee (SEC) continues to discuss faculty salaries. Gen Ed and faculty salaries will be discussed at the Academic Senate meeting this afternoon.

The annual Committee on Committee's Social will be held on June 4, from 4-6pm, in the lobby of the Center for Adaptive Optics. Current and next year's committee members are invited.

Professor Anthony provided feedback on the BOARS discussion of their proposal for UC eligibility reform. Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) was reduced from 12.5 percent. The proposal will allow for 9% ELC and 9% in the statewide context. Concern was expressed that the proposal removes flexibility and inclusiveness.

Chair Hughey and Vice Provost Galloway were the only faculty in attendance at the Student Affairs summit to discuss their "Strategic Visioning Initiative". The Initiative is a summary of subcommittee work and includes goals such as creating a caring community for students, plans for a new student center and creating synergy through partnerships on and off campus such as internships. It is not clear if the colleges were represented at the summit and there is no connection between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs in the document. CAFA expressed concern that Student Affairs will develop a Certificate of Leadership without any faculty input or involvement. The Committee suggested SOAR expand its mandate to include student organizations, but it should not provide oversight to groups that are state or nationally affiliated.

Chair Hughey will circulate the committee's draft annual report for feedback during the summer. The report is due August 31.

The minutes for the May 23 meeting were approved with changes.

Implementation Plan for UCSC Academic Plan

Chair Hughey met with Planning and Budget Vice Chancellor Meredith Michaels and Special Assistant Galen Jarvinen for preliminary information on the Implementation Plan. The Senate chair and vice chair were involved with developing the Plan along with the vice chancellors and vice provosts. Measures of sustained or improved performance

for admissions and financial aid are clear, but input from Admissions on outreach and admission related goals are missing. Members suggested adding a goal for admissions and first year students.

The goals are operational and include a list of potential campus indicators for comparative analysis and accountability. If we view campus reputation as an indicator of excellence, and vice versa, then it was suggested that campuswide indicators be pushed down to the divisions and colleges. Graduate enrollment is not directly included as a metric in the plan.

Members agreed to schedule a special meeting to discuss the Plan before the June 13 deadline for providing feedback.

Essay Question

CAFA discussed the draft essay question prompts that will be used for the selection of next year's Regents Scholars and other merit scholars. The principle of the essay is to provide a sample of the quality of the student's thinking and ability to communicate ideas.

This year's prompt was not good at getting students to develop thought in a critical way and communicate it effectively. Writing plays an important roll in all majors and in upper division classes, but there is a certain bias towards those interested in history or languages. A science aspect could be incorporated so that there were two prompts – a humanistic and scientific one.

Members discussed various questions and prompts related to UCSC's distinctive history and interdisciplinary approach and to political and scientific issues before deciding on the essay question for next year.

Area d

CAFA received a request from the chairs of three departments to support efforts to change UC's Area d (science) admission requirement. In February BOARS received a petition from faculty at all campuses regarding Area d and will discuss the requirement at their June meeting.

High school earth science classes are not a prerequisite for any UCSC science classes (calculus and chemistry are). Many high school students have not decided on a major and typically change it several times before their junior year. Students in the Life Sciences major, UCSC's largest science major, have already taken two of the three requirements in Area d. Some members would prefer to increase the number of math requirements instead of science requirements.

CAFA decided to wait for BOARS to review the proposal and forward it to the Academic Senates for review before commenting.

Admissions Update

Acting Direct McCawley provided Admission by Exception data and the Admissions' publication schedule for CAFA's annual review. Director Draper will provide the publication schedule for Financial Aid.