

**Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
MINUTES
Meeting of October 5, 2007**

Present: Chair Richard Hughey, Scott Oliver, Juan Poblete, Bruce Cooperstein, Amy Weaver (NSTF), Nathan Zaru (SUA) and Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Guests: Advisor Cheryl Parrizo, Acting Director Admissions Michael McCawley, Director Financial Aid Ann Draper

Absent: David Anthony, Mathew Palm (SUA)

Announcements

Chair Hughey reported on the October 2nd Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting:

- New Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Felicity McGinty, started on September 1st. McGinty came to UCSC from Pennsylvania State University, where she served as associate vice president for Student Engagement. The new Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management will start October 15th and a search for the director of admissions is planned.
- New faculty salary scales, effective October 1st, are available on the Office of the President (OP) web site. UCSC compensation is still the lowest in the UC system.
- The Senate is hosting a Professional School Forum on October 10th from 3-5pm in the Stevenson Event Center. Professional schools would make the campus more attractive and compliment the development of undergraduate programs such as one in public health, but there is concern that the schools would be an enormous drain on campus resources.
- The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) and the Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA) will work on the development of a campus honors program with assistance from Marlene Robinson, in the Dean of Undergraduate Education office. The committees will review the percent for campus honors, get the dean's list up and running and discuss the option of an honors college or an honors floor in the colleges. Admissions will need honors information by March in order to add it to recruitment materials.

Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)

The UC Committee on Preparatory Education's proposed amendments to Senate Regulation 636, which addresses the writing size cap, were discussed. Although ELWR is largely an issue for other committees, CAFA believes the quality of writing has an effect on retention, funding should not come from the writing courses, a cap of 20 is worth supporting and there are scheduling issues with the exam that may disadvantage out of state students. The CAFA chair will draft the committee's response.

Frosh Eligibility

UC guarantees admission to the top 12.5% of California's public high school graduates (CSU targets the top 33 1/3%). There are currently three pathways for UC eligibility: Eligible in the Statewide context, Eligible in the Local Context (ELC), and Eligible by

Examination Alone. Students who are eligible have guaranteed admissions to a UC campus. Campuses may also admit students 'by exception' with a cap of 6% of total enrolled should be devoted to low-socioeconomic, first-generation students. The majority of students are eligible in the Statewide Context, which is defined by a combination of high school GPA in the required subject areas and standardized examination scores. Many home-schooled students qualify for UC through Eligible by Examination Alone method.

The College Board is currently conducting an audit of AP courses to see if the classes are truly meeting the criteria as prescribed.

BOARS believes many students do not apply to UC because they don't think they can get in. The proposed modification will extend the notion of eligibility guarantee (12.5%) to the idea of Eligible for Review, a philosophical and political change. The intent is to decentralize the process, which would give more flexibility and control to the local campus by having all applicants fall under Comprehensive Review. The current system is understood by high school counselors because it's been in place for a few years. It will be difficult to define 12.5% after the modification for budget purposes in Sacramento. Currently it is believed that Berkeley supports the proposal, while Davis, Santa Barbara and San Diego do not. Proposed changes include:

- Eliminate SAT Subject exams
- Satisfy 11 of 15 A-G courses by the junior year
- Lower GPA requirement to 2.89, which was the GPA previously before it was raised to 3.0. When that change was made, it was estimated that we were drawing from the 14.5% of high school graduates using the 2.89 GPA

Last year BOARS (Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools) changed the math requirement under the ELC pathway. This was done without campus review. Previously all three math classes had to be completed by the end of the junior year. Now only two classes must be completed.

The current system is understood by high school counselors because it's been in place for a few years. The proposal is trying to expand the horizon for those who do not consider themselves UC eligible by changing eligibility guarantee for 12.5% to Eligible for Review for all high school graduates. It will be difficult to define 12.5% after modification for budget purposes in Sacramento.

Under the current system, California residents who are UC eligible but denied admission to the campus(es) to which they applied receive an offer from Merced and/or will receive Riverside as they are presently below their targets. The proposal would eliminate to a great extent guaranteed admissions, but also allow campuses to draw from significantly lower high school GPAs in trying to reach their enrollment target.

CAFA is not concerned about eliminating SAT Subject tests. Tests are not required for ELC, but dropping them could hurt students when they apply to other universities

Nothing in the proposal addresses the A-G issue at 1600 California public high schools (18 schools have an incomplete A-G list). Problems include how often these courses are offered, who has access, who is encouraged to take the classes and class size.

CAFA is concerned that Eligible for Review will be less transparent to prospective students and their families. If the intent is to draw from a more diverse pool there are other ways to do that. For example, increasing the percent of students admitted through ELC could be an effective option. ELC was originally proposed for 10%, then 8% and finally was approved at the current 4%. Outreach budgets, which have been slashed for the last few years, have had a negative impact on diversity.

If the guarantee for admission is removed, will more students not knowing what to do to get into UC, go to the community colleges instead?

If more students are admitted from the proposed changes will there be an increase in resources to support them? Theoretically the proposal has the right goal - expanding options to more students, but a study on the outcome is needed.

Admissions will provide data to help CAFA evaluate the proposal:

- Possible effects on UC
- Possible effect on UCSC and its interests
- Impact of increasing the percent of ELC
- Possibility of unintended consequences – drawing students with a lower GPA

Web and Publications Feedback to Admissions

Committee members will review the following divisional web sites as prospective students and provide feedback for Admissions at the November 30 meeting.

- Arts – David Anthony
- Humanities – Juan Poblete
- Physical & Biological Sciences – Bruce Cooperstein
- Social Sciences – Scott Oliver
- Engineering – Richard Hughey
- Transfer Students site – Amy Weaver