

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
MINUTES
November 2, 2007

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

Guests: Acting Director Admissions Michael McCawley, Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management Michelle Whittingham, Office Awards and Honors Coordinator Marlene Robinson and VP and Dean of Undergraduate Education Bill Ladusaw

Absent: Nathan Zaru (SUA) Mathew Palm (SUA)

Announcements

Current child care management issues were discussed at the quarterly joint Chancellor's Advisory Board/Senate Executive Committee (CAP/SEC) October 30 meeting. SEC received the chancellor's report on UC Extension. A revised report for public distribution will be provided.

UC President Dynes gave his personal views on the BOARS' eligibility modification proposal during his visit to UCSC on November 1. At four percent, UCSC is higher than most other UCs in utilizing Admission by Exception (AbyE).

Chair Hughey met with the Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (CAAD) to review the BOARS' proposal. CAAD would like to see CAFA's response to the proposal next week for consideration in the drafting of their response the following week.

Eligibility Modification

The Committee agrees with the goal of the BOARS' eligibility modification proposal to increase access to UC. CAFA is concerned about the resources needed for this type of review at each campus, UC's public image and maintaining transparency so as not to set up false expectations of admission. Predictability in the admission process needs to be simplified, not made more confusing for students, parents and high school counselors.

The proposal would lower the GPA from 3.0 to 2.8 and the *guarantee of admissions* would be replaced by *entitled to a review*. Last year, Admissions did not deny a single student admission without a review. If these changes are implemented, significant resources will be needed for outreach, Admissions and support services for students admitted with a lower GPA.

Based on current pathways, UC guarantees admission to the top 12.5 percent of California high school graduates. Would we go above 12.5 percent with the proposal and if so what are the political and budgetary implications?

CAFA believes an increase in Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) and Admission by

Exception (AbyE) would have the same outcome as the proposal's stated goals.

CAFA's feedback on the BOARS' proposal is due November 15. Chair Hughey and Professor Poblete will draft the memo and circulate it to members for feedback. Lecturer Weaver will draft the preamble and provide overall editing.

Honors Consultation with VP/DUE Ladusaw

In preparation for developing a campus honors program, VPDUE Ladusaw discussed the types and characters of honors programs within the context of retention, the 2004 honors report, and other UC campuses (<http://planning.ucsc.edu/honors/>). Retention data (e.g., the 2006 CEP report on graduation rates) shows that there is room for improvement at UCSC in the retention of top quintile of entering students, as ranked by high school GPA.

The committee wishes to ensure any UCSC honors program is transparent, open and inviting. Members expressed some concern that, by necessity, first-year admission may be based on high school GPA and test scores rather than UCSC performance. Members found it particularly important to ensure all UCSC students seeking extra challenge may take part in the honors program. Members are also wish to ensure that the honors program is accessible rather than exclusive.

The committee discussed mission statements from four UC honors programs. San Diego has an honors college and Riverside has a first year and continuing honors program. Irvine and Santa Barbara's programs are by invitation only and Davis has an invitational residential program that targets 3 percent of SIRS. UCLA is very structured, with specific course requirements, but also accessible to many students.

CAFA discussed whether honors should be a multi-year option, available to frosh and by application or invitation only. The Dean's list could be a pathway for identifying university honor students and referrals from college and department honors could create a pool. Members expressed some concern that, by necessity, first-year admission may be based on high school GPA and test scores rather than UCSC performance. Members found it particularly important to ensure all UCSC students seeking extra challenge may take part in the honors program. Members are also wish to ensure that the honors program is accessible rather than exclusive.

A full honors program will need sufficient requirements, rewards, and recognitions to ensure its existence as a real program of challenge for students.

VP/DUE Ladusaw offered to bring to CAFA and the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) a program outline at the end of November.

Next CAFA Meeting

There is currently no review process for continuing Regents Scholars. Financial Aid Director Ann Draper will provide financial aid data and criteria for Regents Scholars at the November 30 meeting. CAFA will need to establish criteria for continuing Regents

by the end of fall quarter for timely notification.