

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Minutes
November 30, 2007

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

Guests: Acting Director Michael McCawley, VP/DUE Bill Ladusaw, Coordinator Marlene Robinson, Vice Chancellor Michelle Whittingham, Advisor Cheryl Perazzo, Interim Director Ann Draper

Absent: Bruce Cooperstein

Announcements

VP/DUE Bill Ladusaw will join CAFA at 9:15am to continue the discussion on development of an honors program.

At the November 27 Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting there was a spirited discussion on the undergraduate mission statement. Proposed by a systemwide task force, the statement was panned by the committee.

SEC was given an update on the tree-sitting protesters and discussed faculty involvement in the colleges. The Council of Provosts will send a letter to the 25 percent of faculty not affiliated with a college.

Web homework due today will be covered at the January 18 meeting. CAFA will invite the Public Information Office web person to join the discussion.

A campuswide scholarship web site is being implemented and will include data for current and prospective students. The site will include information on college funds and will contain key words so the site comes up in Google searches.

Minutes for the October 26 and November 2 meetings were approved.

Proposal to Repeal Academic Senate Regulation 458

After a brief discussion the committee agreed to recommend removal of objectionable language that has never been implemented.

Honors Program Discussion with VP/DUE Bill Ladusaw

Recognition and visibility (to faculty) are goals for honors and the program would include curricular, faculty mentoring and social opportunities.

Resources are not GPA linked and creating capacity for priority enrollment is an issue.

Students selected for the Chancellor's Undergraduate Internship Program (CUIP) learn a broad range of leadership and life skills plus gain access to campus leadership and resources. In every CUIP cohort of about 35 students, three to five go into honors.

UCLA has a very successful one-unit Discovery Seminar Program for small groups of lower division students (less than 20). The Honor Program staff coordinates the program which is available to all students, though honors students are required to take three units.

At the November 9 meeting, the Senate approved requirements for honors designation at graduation based on GPA and limited to the top 15 percent (summa cum laude top 2%; magna cum laude next 3%; cum laude next 10%).

Development of a rubric for the campus honors program will be based on academic excellence, progress standards, research experience, education abroad and include an honors code. Requirements for honors in the major, college honors and honors at graduation will need to be redefined and posted to the web site so prospective and current students know the difference.

VP/DUE Ladusaw will present a draft rubric and curriculum in January.

Regents Scholars Rebuild

The current Regent Scholars commitments are greater than the permanent budget and the program is currently \$122,488 in the red without adding any more students.

CAFA needs to consider revising the program so that is scalable and sustainable where development money can be added as it comes in. Awards are currently \$6,000 per year for a total of \$24,000. VP/DUE suggested terraced awards, similar to grad support, so that the program is broad and money is used in a way that leverages the recruitment and retention goals. For example the first year's award could be \$2,000 then \$4,000, \$6,000 and \$8,000 for subsequent years. That would leave \$4,000 for other uses (for total of \$24,000) and if a student doesn't continue after the first year or two the remaining money would go back into the program.

VPDUE Ladusaw told the committee that the EVC would provide \$250,000 in one-time funding to ensure that the Regents program continues for the Fall 2009 class, rather than being abruptly terminated due to the current deficit.

Update on Tamkun/Hughey letter on Regents Scholars

Historically Regent Scholars with need receive funding above \$6,000 per quarter. This is being stopped for new Scholars with need this year. Last year we expected 30 new students in the program and got 51. Although the number of offers was reduced this year, 39 students were added to the program.

Using a model with a fixed funding amount will allow Scholars to accurately project their budget. As we broaden the program and decrease awards how will this impact retention?

The committee discussed standards for the program. UC Berkeley has three levels of probation. In the first level if the GPA drops below 3.0 the student would retain all benefits. In level two the student would retain benefits such as priority enrollment and housing, but would lose funding. The last level at the end of the third quarter, if the student's GPA dropped below 3.0 there would be no appeal.

The Regents Scholars program is a full year commitment and students who miss the metrics for two quarters in a row have already received funds.

CAFA discussed a various quarterly and accumulative GPA options and the number of times a student could be on probation. With an accumulative GPA a student could have a couple of bad quarters and still maintain the required GPA. UCSC would need a faculty or academic advisor for each step of probation and appeals should be available for special circumstances. CAFA was unanimous in its support for two levels of probation instead of three.

The Committee approved the use of three levels for first-year students and two levels for all other students. This means that, after announcement in early winter quarter, all first years Regents would continue, but other students who do not meet the final GPA threshold may lose the Regents temporarily or permanently, depending on their ability to correct the GPA deficit.

Advisor Perazzo, Interim Director Draper, and AVC Whittingham will work on draft requirements via email, within put from Chair Hughey and Member Poblete, for further discussion in January.

Admission by Exception (AbyE)

The Office of Admissions requested that CAFA review and approve the criteria for Admission by Exception (AbyE). The Committee agreed with Chair Hughey that, with the current absence of any data or analysis on the program, it was impossible for the Committee to approve the program. Without taking any position on AbyE, the Committee endorsed the use by Admissions of last year's AbyE criteria. The Committee will review in detail data and analysis presented to it in February 2008 to determine the AbyE policies for the entering class of 2009.