

**Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Minutes
May 22, 2009**

Present: Richard Hughey, Faye Crosby, Raoul Birnbaum, Amy Weaver (NSTF), Juan Poblete, Bruce Cooperstein, Donald Wittman, Scott Oliver, Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Rob Coe, Gabe Elkaim, Maritoni Medrano (SUA), Michael Morrissey (SUA), Michelle Romero (SUA)

Guests: Associate Director Michael McCawley, Director Ann Draper, AVC Michelle Whittingham, VC Felicia McGinty

Consultation with Student Affairs Vice Chancellor

CAFA asked Vice Chancellor Felicia McGinty for information on how budget cuts were being partitioned within Student Affairs and for an update on the web portal project. Colleges and University Housing (CUHS) will absorb half of the \$3M cut to Student Affairs, the rest will come from registration-fee and state-funded areas. The unit's guiding principles for budget cuts are to protect funds that provide essential support services to students and provide safe and healthy living situations in a 24-hour operation, admissions functions, diversity of students and staff and compliance issues. Future success will rely on the ability to restructure and move to a different organizational model. Student Affairs will create an asset map, identify service delivery synergies (delete duplications across units, divisions), maximize current staff positions, establish service recharges and make sustainable decisions. VC McGinty hopes for a greater, clearer focus on retention at the end of the process.

CAFA emphasized the need for collaboration with faculty and the Senate as cuts are made within Student Affairs. Planned cuts in Student Affairs will have varying levels of affect on student success and, ultimately, graduation. Significant faculty involvement in the planning of these cuts is critical.

VC McGinty expressed concern about federal work-study, especially how we package the program. Student Affairs is conducting a campus survey of hiring plans for 2009-10. If units are reducing student workers, Financial Aid Director Ann Draper said the campus will need to look at job placement off campus for these students. The expectation is for students to work and borrow \$9,000 (UCSC's program can only fund 1500 students). CAFA emphasized the need to raise the level of campus awareness and advocate with unit heads for program support, VC McGinty agreed to follow up.

Several forums were held with students to hear their concerns about budget cuts and their suggestions for reductions. One of the recurring themes was to provide less food in the dining halls (the schedule for breakfast will be cut by one hour). Other suggestions were made for TAPS and OPERS. Students talked about the need for additional library hours. Student Affairs is working with University Librarian Virginia Steele to extend hours to 2am, provide additional security and encourage students to work in groups.

A forum was held for Family Student Housing (FSH) tenants to discuss the proposed 7% rent increase for 2009-10. Students don't feel they should have to pay more because FSH buildings are older and have maintenance and security issues. VC McGinty said rents cannot be lowered because FSH units are larger (average 1000sf), do not require parking permits and have only one lease-holder compared to traditional student campus housing. Student Affairs is working on the maintenance and security issues.

VC McGinty supports the concept of a "Getting Involved" web page that was discussed with the Committee in the fall, but contrary to what she had previously indicated, she felt she cannot proceed without knowing the cost. The next step is to have a conversation with Information Technology Services (ITS) and University Relations to see if the project fits within the campus plan and where it would live long term. Members discussed options for minimizing costs (Student Affairs has one part time web person), which included an offer to sponsor independent study for development. AVC Michelle Whittingham was designated as Student Affairs lead for the web project.

Post Consultation

The Committee expressed deep disappointment at the continued lack of any action on the single proposed web page issue; CAFA's work on this was motivated by VC McGinty's request during the Fall consultation. The Committee also discussed the budget issues. A post-consultation memo will be drafted for Committee review.

Announcements

Chair Richard Hughey provided a summary of the May 12 and 19 Senate Executive Committee meetings.

The Web Presence Subcommittee invited CAFA members to their June 5 meeting with AVC Barry Shiller.

An addition to the April 24 draft minutes was made. The revised minutes will be reviewed and approved at the next meeting.

Comprehensive Review

In 2004, the first year of Comprehensive Review (CR) at UCSC, the campus denied admission to fewer than 200 eligible students. CAFA gave the most weight (points) to GPA based criteria and set a cap for GPA of 4.4 (some UCs have uncapped GPAs). Other criteria were then weighted based on the points assigned to GPA. Faculty also determined the number of points readers would give to increase the academic profile for factors that were not part of the Computed Index Score (CIS). UC eligibility changed in 2004, with the increase of minimum high school GPA from 2.8 to 3.0, making some previously eligible student ineligible (and thus, potential Admission by Exception students).

CAFA reviewed data for Fall 2008 and Fall 2009 admits and considered four proposals for changing UCSC's Comprehensive Review criteria for Fall 2010 admissions. The proposals would reduce the scope for Admission by Exception (AbyE) and the number of files read and would focus the reading on honors and awards, change the geographical preference or change the scoring for predictive GPA.

Tables in the agenda packet show the impact of various scoring scenarios on ethnicity, first generation and academic measures. AbyE admits were excluded from the data without breaking out the Bridge or Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) cohorts. A review of the readers' scores in 2008 and 2009 show the reading process decreased both diversity and academic achievement.

The Bridge cohort is small so that the shift of a few students would not change data significantly. Members commented that Bridge students may work more than the norm and be advised to take fewer units, and that Bridge students may also take a lot of pass no pass classes in their first year.

Concerns were raised that more data was needed, CAFA should consult with EOP Director Michelle Handy and that not enough time was left in the quarter for discussion prior to making changes to the CR criteria for Fall 2010 (due at the end of spring quarter).

Members discussed the value and benefits that AbyE brings to the student and campus, the class of students they want and how to shape the admissions process to achieve this cohort. CAFA agreed that the philosophy should be to 1) maintain diversity, and 2) increase the academic quality of our students.

This discussion will continue at the next meeting on May 29.