

**Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid**  
**Minutes**  
**February 20, 2009**

Present: Richard Hughey, Bruce Cooperstein, Faye Crosby (via conference call), Raoul Birnbaum, Amy Weaver (NSTF), Rob Coe, Michael Morrissey (SUA), Juan Poblete, Gabe Elkaim, Scott Oliver, Donald Wittman, Michelle Romero (SUA), Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Raoul Birnbaum, Maritoni Medrano (SUA)

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

**Consultation with Vice Chancellor McGinty**

Regental policy sets a 6% maximum for Admission by Exception (AbyE), but 4% of the 6% is reserved for disadvantaged students. Some campuses do not use AbyE and at UCSC not all AbyE students are required to do the Bridge program. In recent years CAFA has supported using the full percent for both categories.

Last year 423 students were admitted to UCSC with the condition of completing the Bridge Program. Approximately 190 students accepted their offer of admissions and 119 students ended up enrolling. The Bridge program used to be a five-week summer model. The current program, which includes four days of summer prep, early move-in and additional services throughout the first year, has not been around long enough to fully evaluate.

The Bridge program could be applied to people who satisfy the requirements for admission, but are not prepared to come here. We would have to define the metrics for this. The money isn't there so the challenge is to identify who needs the help and what the campus can afford.

CAFA discussed the impact of the current budget situation on the Bridge program and the campus philosophy and commitment to it. If everyone is taking a 10% cut will the same be done for Bridge, which is funded by the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)? More data is needed on the cost per Bridge student, retention and graduation rates to compare it with other support programs. Can we save money to invest elsewhere; are we missing non-admitted groups that are disadvantage?

The minimum GPA requirement (for UC eligibility) for out of state students is 3.4 versus 3.0 for California residents. Should the campus increase the number of non-residents? There are diversity advantages to increasing the number of non-residents, but that is only considering the educational value and not looking at it in the state context or the cost for doing this.

The campus needs to look at integrating the colleges and life out side the classroom. Once a student feels connected they will try harder, retention will improve. VC McGinty said it's important to develop a standard set of learning outcomes (content knowledge) and asked what programs and services support retention, provide engagement and enhance the student experience.

Every high school in California will be able to send 9% of its graduating class to UC when the new Entitled to Review (ETR) admissions process takes effect in 2012. Programs such as Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) will be redefined by ETR.

VC McGinty said we need to improve and increase the orientation which is currently a one-day program and continue to support students throughout their campus experience. We don't talk about how to be successful, work through problems and thrive on campus. The campus also needs to talk about financial aid, are we losing Bridge students due to economics? UC's new Blue & Gold program sounds great, but we don't know how it will play out and its effect on retention. Can this be phased in or one time money provided? CAFA will have a more in depth conversation on this after receiving data on the Bridge program next week.

The Committee asked VC McGinty about its request for Student Affairs to develop a centralized web site where current and prospect students can find out how to get involved. McGinty said what CAFA is asking will take a while to do and the challenge is how the campus, not just Student Affairs, creates a campuswide depository for this information.

UCSC has a lot of great programs and groups already, but there is no cognitive map anywhere. The campus needs an interactive web site for the campus calendar that students that will want to use. There is a disconnect between Admissions and college web sites. Prospective students don't know what to look for on the college pages. The web page needs to be a campus wide effort; it can't come from the Academic Senate or Public Information Office (IPO) alone.

Issues to consider for developing the centralized web site are where to put it, who owns it and who is responsible for web page management, especially during a budget crisis. What is the campus philosophy on this and how do we preserve what is unique about UCSC - the colleges?

VC McGinty would like to meet with CAFA another time to discuss the web page development. Student Affairs can set this up, but not maintain it. The Web Subcommittee will reconfigure this starting with prospective and frosh students.

There are 39 applicants for Director of admissions Search which will continue in the spring.

### **Post Consultation**

VC McGinty agreed to provide some resources for development of a central web site and CAFA will provide immediate and long term plans for the web and a draft template.

### **Admission by Exception**

In the fall, CAFA said to continue with targeting 6% (210 students) AbyE for fall 2009 and 4% for Bridge. That would break down to 140 students that are considered "disadvantaged" and 70 other AbyE cases. Bridge admits fall into the "disadvantaged" category. If the budget changes and EOP can only afford to do 60 students in the fall, the Committee may revise the percent recommended for Bridge. Associate Director McCawley will provide data on EOP and Bridge selection (including an overview of AbyE) at the next meeting on February 27. If Bridge students need to be cut, CAFA members agreed to use AbyE admissions to look for more EOP students who do not need Bridge to try to reach our target.

### **Announcements**

At the February 18 Senate meeting, the first part of the W legislation passed. The second winter quarter Senate meeting is scheduled for March 6.

The January 30 minutes were approved as amended.

Scholarship essays will be distributed at the next meeting on February 27. Each CAFA member will receive about 50 essays to read by March 9 and are encouraged to recruit their faculty to assist. Next year Financial Aid will look into providing electronic copies of the essays