

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Minutes
March 13, 2009

Present: Chair Pro Tem Rob Coe, Richard Hughey (via conference call), Bruce Cooperstein, Faye Crosby, Raoul Birnbaum, Juan Poblete, Scott Oliver, Donald Wittman, Michelle Romero (SUA), Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Maritoni Medrano (SUA), Michael Morrissey (SUA), Amy Weaver (NSTF), Gabe Elkaim

Guests: Associate Director Michael McCawley, Director Ann Draper, AVC Michelle Whittingham, Advisor Kori Calubaquib

Scholarship Essays

The number of financial aid offers was reduced from 187 in 2007 to 125 in 2008. CAFA will make 75 Regents Scholarship offers this year. Invitations to apply for a UCSC Merit Scholarship were made to 950 students, 240 essays were returned (26%).

CAFA determined that offers will be made to the 44 students whose essays scored an A by both faculty reviewers. The remaining 31 offers will be from the pool of essays (73) that received an A and B score.

Academic Standards for UCSC Regents Scholars

Students receiving Regents Scholarships are reviewed quarterly, those who do not meet Academic Standards are put on probation. Four Regents Scholars were on probation fall quarter only, six were on probation all year. The six students at Level Two Probation have met with their provost and developed plans for improving their academic performance. Although students at Level Two Probation retain their Regents Scholarship Program benefits, they do not receive the award and the funds are not held in reserve.

CAFA approved the following change to the UCSC Regents Scholars Academic Standards for 2009-10.

- When Scholars are notified of their Level One Scholarship Probation at the beginning of the next quarter, they must meet with ~~the Provost of their college~~ *their program advisor or college academic preceptor to develop a strategy to improve their academic performance.*

The requirement to meet with the Provost of their college is currently part of Level Two Scholarship Probation.

Admission by Exception

Admission by Exception (AbyE) is an admission pathway for students who are technically ineligible, but show promise of success. Under UC's new Entitled to Review (ETR) admissions policy, effective in 2012, AbyE will continue to be a campus decision (some campuses don't use it). Now that USCS is selective, should the campus continue taking AbyE in the same manner as before and what effect would this have on diversity? CAFA will consider the characteristics we want for our student population and how to determine these outcomes independent of eligibility. The Committee reviewed selected regressions for the predictability of success at UCSC and Bridge data.

The Comprehensive Review Score is a combination of the Computed Index Score (CIS) and the reader's score. CAFA determines the assignment of points for the CIS and the readers (1500 on a 10,000 point scale) and decides where to draw the line for admission (5425 this year).

Readers review entire applications looking for the possible *diamonds in the rough* and for students asking for AbyE from the eligible or indeterminate groups. English and math requirements must be satisfied by the time they graduate from high school.

There are three ways to qualify for the Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP), all meet systemwide criteria for disadvantaged students--participation in an education preparation program (single criteria), attending a low API high school and coming from a historically disadvantaged background (first generation, low income based on national criteria). Race, gender and ethnicity cannot be used as criteria for any admissions decision.

Bridge Program offers will be sent to 295 students to yield 85, a decrease from 120 spots last year. Since GPA is the best predictor of success, a weighted 2.8 GPA was used for the first cut to carve out the pool of 295. Other criteria include an income ceiling of \$60K, a 3435 CIS (up to 4620) and the reader's score.

Due to the level of support, the first year success of the Bridge cohort is good, but goes down over time.

In spring quarter CAFA will review 2009 data and analysis for the continued discussion on the student body characteristics we want to admit as a whole.

Getting Involved Web Portal

Following consultation with VC Felicia McGinty last month, the Web Subcommittee drafted a new portal looking *MyUCSC* web page. Suggested changes include the use of icons instead of lists, clustering similar items together, live links to areas and student organizations and different labels for prospective students who don't know the campus or how to negotiate the site. The overall image should drive the web page and testing with students is needed at each stage of development. CAFA also discussed using the portal to change students' perception of what it means to be involved.