

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Minutes
April 24, 2009

Present: Richard Hughey, Amy Weaver (NSTF), Michael Morrissey (SUA), Scott Oliver, Donald Wittman, Bruce Cooperstein, Gabe Elkaim, Juan Poblete, Faye Crosby, Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Raoul Birnbaum, Rob Coe, Maritoni Medrano (SUA), Michelle Romero (SUA)

Guests: Associate Director Michael McCawley, AVC Michelle Whittingham

Announcements

Chair Hughey provided a summary of the April 21 Senate Executive Committee meeting (SEC) and consultation with Chancellor Blumenthal regarding the UCSC budget cuts. SEC expressed concern with the lack of transparency and consultation as plans are being developed for cuts to programs and staffing.

The annual 4/20 event went as well as possible and the Salary Subcommittee is finalizing their report to submit to CP/EVC Kliger.

Plans for providing online course evaluations are under consideration and Chair Hughey and CAFA Member Professor Crosby took part in a test program. An online process would reduce the cost (staff and materials) and provide flexibility such as an option to require the submission of student evaluations before grades are released. UCSD scans all evaluations which are made available for public viewing. CAFA members would support making summaries of student evaluations public, but not the individual comments.

The March 13 and April 10 minutes were amended and approved.

Appeals

Out of 10,000 denied students, Admissions received 431 frosh appeals and admitted 110. Applications for the majority were missing compelling information and/or the readers missed something in their review. The low GPA for the appeals cohort was 2.72 and the high was 4.17 (average was 3.0). Of those admitted, six were Admission by Exception (four did not have access to Visual and Performing Arts).

Admissions made 165 "Shared Experience" offers for those clearly below selection criteria (not within 100-200 points) who did not apply to UC Merced (UCM). The Shared Experience program allows a student to attend UCM for two years before transferring to UCSC as junior with a minimum 2.8 GPA. Very few students utilized this program and less than 10-15 are expected to do so this year.

Spring Spot Light

Spring Spot Light is an annual program for admitted students that includes college and campus tours, division events and a research fair. This year prospective students were also invited and 7700 people attended the events in a two week period, including 1200 over Easter weekend. The email campaign was refined and included a message to underrepresented students on community building with presentations directed to them (235 attended).

The campus did not repeat last year's Chancellor's Receptions in targeted geographic areas.

EOP Guidelines

The guidelines for UCSC's Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP), an advising program, are set by the EOP office after working with Admissions. Some campuses have done away with EOP or have combined them with other programs. CAFA will discuss the Senate's roll in how EOP is used in admissions at a future meeting.

Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulations Governing Undergraduate Admissions

CAFA was asked to opine on the proposed changes to regulations which will bring policy into alignment with the new Entitled to Review (ETR) admissions policy. In the section on Subject Requirements, CAFA recommends clarifying language on the math requirement (4 years instead of 3).

The Committee noted the lack of a definition of "international" in Section 454 and discussed the many variables for satisfying the English language proficiency requirement. CAFA recommends the word "international" be deleted from the first sentence ("An approved examination to determine English language proficiency is required of all international applicants for admission..."). Similarly, "native" language is not defined in Section 456 and should be deleted.

The proposed regulations do not reference ETR's top 9% criteria for students in the statewide context and 9% in the local context and should be added to Section 465. CAFA also recommends changing "...will not be considered for admission..." to "...will not meet the minimum requirements for admission..." in Section 454 to conform to other language in UC documents.

Comprehensive Review Data

CAFA reviewed comprehensive review data with the aim of adjusting campus criteria for the next two years while SAT subject tests are still required and before ETR is implemented in 2012. The Subcommittee provided data that compared the Computed Index Score (CIS) for a subset of admitted students to the actual score (a combination of CIS and reader's score). There is an overlap of 92% with both systems and any changes will only impact the composition of students at the margin (8%).

UCSC read 16,000 applications this year. Readers, who can assign up to 1500 points, capture non-academic information across all cohorts that cannot be picked up electronically such as talent, leadership and academic success in light of overcoming hardship. Members looked at where reading made a difference and discussed the impact on diversity, retention and graduation rates and addressing the needs of those who come in underprepared.

An objection was raised to the nature of the process, the speed and lack of opportunity for alternate voices to be heard in CAFA's planning of new admission policy. The objection stated that an issue as crucial to the Committee as general admission policy deserves a more thorough review and discussion.

CAFA will continue its review of data next month.