

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
Minutes
May 8, 2009

Present: Richard Hughey, Raoul Birnbaum, Donald Wittman, Scott Oliver, Faye Crosby, Gabe Elkaim, Juan Poblete, Amy Weaver (NSTF), Michelle Romero (SUA), Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Rob Coe, Maritoni Medrano (SUA), Michael Morrissey (SUA), Bruce Cooperstein

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

Announcements

Chair Richard Hughey gave a brief recap of the May 5 Senate Executive Committee meeting. Topics discussed included online evaluations, AAUP data on faculty salaries, proposed Standing Order 100.4 regarding Presidential Duties and the upcoming May 20 Senate meeting.

Senate committee annual reports are due August 31. Subcommittee chairs will submit draft paragraphs on their work by last meeting of spring quarter.

Members agreed to schedule an additional meeting in June. Tentative dates for the meeting will be circulated via email.

Admissions Update

Associate Director Michael McCawley reported that UCSC was right on target for admissions on a day-today basis through April. However the bottom fell out in the last week and we came in at 3500, just shy of the optimal 3950 target. Every UC campus cut back on offers of admission this year. Most of our sister campuses are in similar situations. We were not funded for the 700 over enrolled in fall 2008 so the strategy was to cut, though not this much. CAFA discussed funding issues related to over and under enrollment. Registration fees are dedicated to student activities only and are not permanent monies.

This year's acceptance rate is around 20%, last year it was 23% and 21% in 2007. It is not clear if the rate is a new trend or anomaly. UCSC offered Shared Experience to 166 frosh. UC Davis admitted 500 students on appeal. UC Riverside and Merced have extended their deadlines and won't know the number of SIRS until the end of May. Admissions will look at yields and where the increases did occur. UC's referral pool grew by 10,000 students this year.

BOARS

Professor Juan Poblete reported on the May 1 Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) meeting. BOARS discussed the new Census race and ethnicity classifications which are mandatory for federal data collection. Impact of the new categories on UC admissions is unknown.

BOARS is drafting a white paper regarding the validity of SAT tests.

Talking Points for Consultation

For the May 22 consultation, CAFA will ask Vice Chancellor Felicia McGinty for an update on the web portal project and how budget cuts being are distributed within Student Affairs.

Student Housing Rate Increase

The issue of pending rent increases for Family Student Housing was raised. CAFA and the Graduate Council have expressed concern about the potential impact on recruitment, retention and financial aid. Professor Scott Oliver and Student Representative Michelle Romero volunteered to work on this.

Reader's Review

Members looked at five randomly chosen applications for students who would not have been admitted without the reader's score. The philosophy behind reading the application is to view the whole person. The Computed Index Score (CIS), based on information sent by the Office of the President, also gives us the GPA. Readers, receive a week of training before reviewing eligibility markers, the personal statement and self-reported, hand-entered academic information that are difficult to verify. Specific readers are assigned for international students and applications are grouped by high school. Readers are recused if they have worked with a given school or students. Reader's points (maximum 1500) are added to the CIS and then the campus determines the cutoff for admission.

The transcript for every SIREd student is checked. CAFA discussed whether the transcript should be checked before admission, the reliability of self reported information, the workload required to read all applications, methods for achieving diversity and what criteria to use to get the class we have.

The Committee is considering the first set of proposals for changing UCSC's Comprehensive Review criteria. Consensus on changes to criteria, if any, will need to be met by the last spring meeting.