

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid

October 23, 2009

Minutes

Present: Bruce Cooperstein, Bakthan Singaram, Amy Weaver (NSTF), Chris Edwards, Andy Fisher, Robert Singleton (SUA), Faye Crosby, Alex De Arana-Lemich (SUA), Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Juan Poblete, Donald Wittman

Guests: Associate Vice Chancellor Michelle Whittington, Associate Director Michael McCawley, Director Ann Draper

Announcements

Senate officers and the chairs of 10 committees sit on the Senate Executive Committee (SEC), which meets every other week and twice a quarter with the Chancellor's Advisory Board (CAB). Chair Bruce Cooperstein reported on the SEC meetings of September and October. Academic Council Chair Harry Powell will visit with SEC, recruitment has been initiated for vice chancellor of Planning and Budget and there was lots of talk about furlough issues. SEC drafted a Consultation Statement to clarify procedures due to the breakdown in consultations last year between the administration and Senate. Chair Cooperstein is on the subcommittee formed to assess narrative evaluations for possible Senate action this year. President Yudolf's October campus visit has been rescheduled for November 30, SEC will discuss strategy for the president's consultation with the Senate.

The Academic Council objected to the lack of faculty representation on the Regents' UC Commission on the Future, which is charged with looking at how the University of California can best serve the state and maintain access, quality and affordability in a time of diminishing resources.

Due to recent budget cuts, Vice Chancellor McGinty formed the Educational Partnership Center/UC College Prep (EPC/UCCP) Merger Work Group to advise her on restructuring these units. Started in 1999 under Chancellor Pister, EPC formalized relationships and programs with K-12 schools for a tri-county area and brought middle school students to campus to motivate them to do well and attend a university or community college. At the same time UCCP was formed to provide online honor and A-G courses to fill the gap for California high schools that did not offer them. The two groups separated in 2005. Professor Bakthan will serve as CAFA's rep on the Merger Work Group.

The Academic Senate, through CAFA, has plenary authority over admissions. The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) is the systemwide version of CAFA which sets admissions policy that is then sent to the Regents for approval. Issues usually start with BOARS, but more recently issues have come from the Regents or UC president.

Admissions and Financial Aid

Documents still on paper for Admissions were handed out, including "Introducing the University" – the only brochure that covers eligibility requirements for frosh or transfer students. Eligibility is the floor for admission to UC, then campuses apply their comprehensive review criteria, a mix that varies by campus, to determine selection. Students who meet UC eligibility requirements, but are not offered admission to their choice of campus, will go in the referral pool for Riverside and Merced (Santa Cruz was in the referral pool until they became selective five years ago). The Eligibility and Selection handout discusses A-G courses, GPA and quick review. Both UC and UCSC have a GPA cap of 4.4 (the UC floor is 3.0). At Santa Cruz, academic factors account for 88 percent of the points awarded for admission which reflects the values expressed by this committee. Last year Admissions worked with CAFA's newly formed Publications Subcommittee to ensure that the faculty message is getting out there.

Santa Cruz offered admission to 17,500 new frosh on March 15. Students make their decisions while financial aid offers go out. A lot of data analysis is used to determine how many to admit to yield the 3500 target. Intent to register responses came in a little lower at 3200. The admit rate was 64 percent this year (72 percent last

year) and included a higher percent of underrepresented and an increase in GPA.

The UC Education Finance Steering Committee has representatives from all 10 campuses. Director Draper works with the Office of the President on how to use Return-to-aid (RTA) fee income which funds our grants (overall average 28 percent). More Pell grant money was available this year due to the federal stimulus program. We should be able to fund the full fee increase proposed for students in the winter. It was noted that Financial Aid documents refer to Pell grants as entitlements and should be framed differently. President Yudolf is sending a letter today to students and their families regarding the Regents proposal to raise fees and reaffirms the UC Blue and Gold (financial aid) Opportunity Plan. Director Draper supports a needs-based scholarship campaign that will help make the campus affordable and is working with the campus Development Office to raise more money for this.

Agenda Setting

CAFA briefly reviewed its Confidentiality Statement that was approved last year and is posted to the committee's public web page.

CAFA will spend a good part of this year preparing for UC's new admission policy, Entitled to Review (ETR), effective in 2012. The committee will analyze data to determine changes to the weighing of selection criteria in 2012 to yield our share of high achieving students. Current admissions policy establishes a clear line for Admission by Exception (AbyE). Under ETR, Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) policy will be expanded to 9 percent with a new formula that accounts for the elimination of the Subject-exam requirement and 9 percent in the statewide context yielding an approximate 10 percent guarantee rate overall (Master Plan's eligibility rate for UC is 12.5 percent). Under ETR all students will be looked at more broadly and with the remaining 2.5 percent determined by campus policies on the weighing of the 14 comprehensive review criteria.

Confusion is expected by the public on the ETR process and whether it's a run around Proposition 209 (it is not).

Affordability, which also has to do with outreach, is essential if ETR is going to work. The campus will start advertising ETR in spring next year (2010).

Each year, CAFA reviews the selection process for scholarships so offers can go out at the same time as admissions offers in March. Regents Scholarships is a 4-year campus program for frosh and for juniors and continuing students if money is available. Last year, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education Bill Ladusaw rolled out the undergraduate dean's list and Golden Key honor society chapter.

UC has never used a wait list to counter Stated Intent to Register (SIR) numbers that fall below admission targets. President Yudolf raised the issue in January, but it was too late to implement for the fall. Irvine did utilize a wait list of 700 students this year, which had a negative impact on other UC's including Santa Cruz. Admissions will provide a draft of principles for a systemwide wait list policy for BOARS to review this year.

Subcommittees

Five subcommittees were formed last year to monitor, do research and make recommendations to the full CAFA on the following topics: honors and merit scholarships, web presence, publications, comprehensive review data and appeals. Because the strategies of the web and publications subcommittees overlapped, the two were combined to form one communications subcommittee this year. Members present volunteered to serve on the following subcommittees, final membership will be determined at the next meeting.

- Honors & Merit Scholarship
- Communications
- Comprehensive Review Data
- Appeals