

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
November 13, 2009
Minutes

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

Absent: Juan Poblete, Faye Crosby

Guests: Vice Chancellor Felicia McGinty, Executive Director of Retention Services Pablo Reguerin, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Dean of Students Alma Siefert

Consultation

Vice chancellor McGinty gave background information on Student Affairs - a broad division divided into four clusters. Campus Life reports to AVC Siefert and includes the Student Health Center, OPERS (Office of Physical Education and Recreational Sports), retention services, disability services, the resource center, SOAR (Student Organization Advising and Resources) and the Career Center. Ethnic Resource Centers (4) are now reporting to Retention Services. Enrollment Management reports to AVC Michelle Whittingham and includes Admissions and Financial Aid. Residential services are on the college side and auxiliary services oversee facilities, the Bookstore and dining services. Student Affairs' primary goal is to enhance the co-curricular experience with a focus on retention this year.

Over the past two years, the Student Affairs' budget was cut by \$3M across all fund sources – state funds, registration fees and administrative recharges. Hours have been cut for CRE's (Coordinators for Residential Education) and evening safety officers. Due to unfilled positions, some of which have now been eliminated (e.g. Financial Aid), Student Affairs has not had to lay off staff. On the campus life side there were less open positions so positions were eliminated through a reorganization during the summer (see McGinty's letter of August 7). Direct services to students were protected while trying to be as equitable as possible in meeting budget targets.

AVC Siefert said her vision is to have a data driven environment to better target students who need assistance and to determine the rate of return on our investment of resources. In terms of dollars, \$100,000 goes to an average of 120 Bridge students a year. State funds, the primary source of funding for the Bridge program, are gone and now made up by registration fees. Non-financial aid support for EOP students, around \$500,000 (specifics will be provided), is found in four areas – Bridge, graduation preparation, the operational budget and core advising.

Bridge students are typically not math or science majors. Bridge requires 12 units of prep (Core, writing, lab) in the first quarter. If math is not also taken in the first quarter, Bridge students have a difficult time catching up to science, math and engineering majors who come in with math, biology and/or chemistry classes. AVC Siefert said data from the Learning Center and the Writing Program show that the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) cohort is not doing as well which they referred to as an equity issue. Data are also not available on EOP students after the first year to know how they are doing in comparison to the general population. When asked for clarification on the equity issue, Executive Director Reguerin reported that the Learning Center data show graduation rates are the same at the four and six-year level, but a closer look shows that Bridge students receive more C grades than the general population. VC McGinty said the focus should be on EOP students and providing support for them to graduate. Advising is a key issue, we need to set high standards and support them. CAFA could be helpful in understanding the history on how we make Bridge decisions.

The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program, which provides preparation and support for careers in the sciences, requires students to be on a five-year graduation track. AVC Sifuentes said that this would not be impossible for Bridge students, but would be a challenge if they are down on math coming in and don't take it in the first quarter. The Academic Excellence (ACE) Program is another support program not affiliated with Bridge or EOP.

Chair Cooperstein said the expectation is not for Student Affairs to do the same thing with less and still be successful; we need to consider other options. AVC Sifuentes said they are looking into enhancing the math expectations for EOP economics majors and her biggest concern is that Bridge is being treated as a remedial program instead of an enhancement one. VC McGinty agreed that the focus of Bridge has been on community building and leadership development. Additional academic support is needed for many students who are the first generation to attend college.

CAFA strongly urged connecting Bridge students with mentors in their first year, working with colleges that offer services in smaller groups and leveraging resources by having top students who tutor also mentor. VC McGinty said it would be helpful for CAFA to opine on where we're going with retention and diversity goals, what these mean in 2010 compared to the time when the programs were first implemented, non-resident students who need a 3.4 GPA for admission (3.0 for residents) and the criteria for special admits with regards to diversity and access. (Financial aid does not cover non-resident costs.) VC McGinty agreed to consult with CAFA as changes are developed and provide regular brief updates.

Executive Director Reguerin requested a CAFA representative for the Bridge Work Group that will begin meeting in January.

Associate Vice Chancellor Whittingham is following up on last year's effort to develop a "Getting Involved" Web Portal site and is working on an interim solution, though resources are limited.

Post Consultation Discussion

The post consultation memo will clarify consultation expectations and timing.

CAFA has plenary authority for Admission by Exception (AbyE), which is part of California's Master Plan for Education for students who do not meet UC admissions requirements. Each year the committee reviews AbyE data provided by the EOP director and approves policy for the following fall frosh class. Bridge is a one year, first year program. The question is always how many students can Bridge afford to support since more time is spent with them than with EOP students. Although Bridge students can pursue the STEM program, the current Bridge model has been around for less than six years so it's not possible to compare graduation rates. An overview and discussion of AbyE and Bridge will be added to the next agenda.

Announcements

Chair Cooperstein reported on the Senate Executive Committee (SEC) meeting of November 3. The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections (CRJ&E) determined that two resolutions from the Special Meeting will go forward and the third was improperly formulated. Four UC campuses are backfilling salary reductions with non-competitive research grants. Child care for UCSC employees will close at the end of the year. SEC discussed Executive Vice Chancellor Kliger's response to the child care outsourcing proposal and is drafting a resolution on child care for the November 20 Senate meeting. Also discussed were the EVC's budget work groups and the first Annual Report of Faculty Salary Competitiveness.

The October 23 minutes were approved with a minor change.

Due to a teaching conflict, Chair Cooperstein requested the start time for winter quarter meetings be moved from 9am to 8:30 or 8:45am. Another member also has the same conflict and those present agreed to the 8:30am start time. An email query to confirm availability will be sent to absent members.

Agenda Setting

CAFA approved the draft Consultation Procedures.

Chair Cooperstein will serve as CAFA's representative to the administrative Web Council. Professor Edwards will attend the December 1 Council meeting in Cooperstein's absence.

At the October 23 meeting the Web Presence and Publications Subcommittees were merged to form one Communications subcommittee, which includes the campus web branding effort. Subcommittee membership was finalized as follows (Admissions and Financial Aid will work with the respective subcommittees).

- Honors & Merit Scholarship: Amy/Chair, Robert, Andy, Bruce
- Communications: Faye/Chair, Alexander, Bruce
- Comprehensive Review Data: Donald/Chair, Robert, Faye, Bruce
- Appeals: Chris/chair, Amy

The Communications Subcommittee will review draft Entitled to Review (ETR) publications which need CAFA approval by spring 2010 for a pilot in 2010. Last year CAFA made changes to comprehensive review criteria for frosh and agreed not to make additional changes for a two year period to allow for comparison data collection.

Each year CAFA reaffirms the Admissions process for appeals. CAFA delegates standard appeals to Admissions to handle (typically 98% that have to do with missing or incorrect information); exceptions are brought to the CAFA chair. Per Senate and Regental policy a chancellor, after consultation with CAFA, can for purposes that benefit the campus, admit students. This cannot be delegated down and is reported to the Regents. Last year a subcommittee was formed to develop appeals criteria and guidelines. The Appeals Subcommittee will meet this quarter to decide on issues for winter quarter review and approval (effective spring quarter for fall admission decisions).

Policy Review

CAFA briefly discussed the Draft Academic Programs and Units Policy and Procedures document comments due Nov. 20. Disestablishment of programs and units could influence the decision of students in the pipeline on whether to apply to UCSC (e.g. the Community Studies program for fall 2010).

Discussion of the Differential Fee Proposal and Report of the Undergraduate Educational Effectiveness Task Force was tabled to the next meeting on November 20.