

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
May 14, 2010
Minutes

Present: Bruce Cooperstein, Raoul Birnbaum, Chris Edwards, Juan Poblete, Bakthan Singaram, Donald Wittman, Amy Weaver (NSTF), Alex De Arana-Lemich (SUA), Alma Natalia De Castro (SUA), Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Faye Crosby, Andy Fisher, Michelle Romero (SUA)

Guests: Associate Director Michael McCawley, Associate Director of Outreach Ebony Lewis, Vice Chancellor Felicia McGinty Associate Vice Chancellor Michelle Whittington, Director Ann Draper

Announcements

Chair Cooperstein reported on the May 11 Senate Executive (SEC) meeting. Town Hall meetings have been scheduled for talks by the four EVC candidates, the second Silicon Valley search failed (candidate accepted another position) and two amendments to the recently revised Regulation 9.2 - Written Evaluations will be in the May 23 Senate meeting Call. SEC met with Chancellor Blumenthal to discuss the recent library sit-ins and judicial action against the Kerr Hall occupants.

The January 15 minutes were approved.

Policy Review

CAFA considered the Proposal to Expand Area “d” Laboratory Science Admissions Requirement. Currently CSU and UC requirements are the same. The UC Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools, while considering earlier proposals (three in the past 10 years), raised concerns about rigor and preparation for university classes.

Some members expressed concern that the earth sciences are not viewed as scientific. The issue is in the rigor of the requirements, not the specific subject matter. Others believe expanding courses to include the applied sciences could have a more direct appeal to students, open the door for teaching the basics and channel more into the sciences. Not all high schools offer earth or space science courses.

Concern was also raised about the lack of clear standards on what constitutes rigorous classes and the confusion between rigor and scientific fundamentals. Discussion will continue at the May 30 meeting.

Regents Yield

Director Draper provided data on the history of Regent Scholar Offers and Yield. The campus made 203 offers with the goal of yielding 30 frosh Regents scholars this year; we got 25 (12%).

Consultation with Student Affairs Vice Chancellor

Vice Chancellor McGinty said Student Affairs is trying to maintain services during this difficult time and per the CP/EVC’s memo will make differential cuts to units. Enrollment units are particularly challenged because they are funded by state dollars only.

In response to CAFA’s decision last month to make Bridge an optional instead of a mandatory program, Student Affairs is in the process of making quick decisions and modifications on how to serve this year’s cohort of students. We typically get 100 students for every 300 invited, but don’t know who will choose to participate in the new voluntary program. We will be serving a different type of student who is better prepared and will need a greater understanding of their needs to adjust the program accordingly.

This summer Student Affairs will target 60 students who are high risk and will work to connect with them and their families to provide support. Of the EOP cohort, 26% of sophomores are having academic difficulty. VC

McGinty will check and clarify whether this group includes Bridge students. Next year some focus will be shifted to this group to develop advising with colleges, tailored workshops and tutoring. Of the non-EOP cohort, 14% of frosh are also having academic difficulty. This touches on the broader campus issue of retention. We have ideas and data on where students are having problems, but have not designed interventions as a campus to address this.

VC McGinty will provide specific data on funds spent for EOP and academic support now versus two years ago. The campus provides very little support for this and funding has diminished. Student funds support these endeavors (Measure 7) and they determine where to spend the fees, which is a structural constraint for Student Affairs. Student fees now fund what the state use to cover.

VC McGinty agreed to partner with CAFA on a study of the effectiveness of students who are invited or not to participate in the Bridge program. Assistance from Institutional Research will be needed to gather data.

The EPPC/ECC merger work team has convened and met once. The Educational Partnership Center (EPC) is currently without a director and the director of the California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS) has also left. VC McGinty is looking to leverage technology for the academic preparation services that both units provide.

Last year CAFA asked the vice chancellor to create a centralized “getting involved” web page to help build a sense of community. VC McGinty is not convinced that the web site will be the end all for community engagement and retention and has not seen numbers on the cost for development. Student Affairs staff are overworked and don’t have expertise in this area; we would have to hire someone to do this. AVC Whittingham is McGinty’s designee and will provide feedback to CAFA. If she can come up with funds for this project, VC McGinty agreed to support it. The committee will provide AVC Whittingham with ideas for an intern or senior project for developing the web page.

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)

Professor Poblete reported on the May 7 BOARS meeting. SAT subject tests will no longer be required under the UC’s Entitled to Review (ETR) admissions program effective fall 2012. Campuses will need to inform BOARS of majors that require subject tests or other tests for admission (secondary to UC admission). We have not had a broad conversation with the deans and department chairs on this yet.

Action Items

There was a brief discussion of the draft Outcomes memo to communicate changes to the campus selection process (changed weighting to several criteria, the shift in Admission by Exception), the intent of those changes and the anticipated outcomes.

At the January consultation, BOARS’ Chair Sylvia Hurtado urged CAFA to develop, similar to other UCs, a campus philosophy to guide the selection process that would be articulated in our admissions documents. The committee has considered drafts statements from members that could be used to define our future alumni and what we are trying to achieve through our admissions policy. CAFA will finalize guiding principles that account for our comprehensive review practices in the fall.

Admissions

Following announcement on the suspension of the Community Studies major, Alison Galloway, Vice Provost of Academic Affairs sent a personalize email to 179 students who had indicated this as their primary or alternate major (only two frosh out of 3850 had indicated a Community Studies major). The message encouraged students to consider other majors before accepting UCSC’s offer of admission. Six students who had already submitted Statements of Intent to Register (SIRs) were contacted by Associate Director McCawley with

information on other majors they could pursue. The campus is committed to continuing students in the Community Studies major.

After the May 1 deadline, UCSC received 3150 SIRs. There was an increase in the percent of SIRs and the number of first generation and underrepresented students. Davis and Santa Barbara did not meet their targets and utilized their wait lists (Santa Cruz did not).