

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid
October 6, 2010
Draft Minutes

Present: Bruce Cooperstein (chair) June Gordon, Raoul Birnbaum, Chris Edwards, Alma Natalia De Castro (SUA), Jonathan Fox, Pamela Edwards (ASO)

Absent: Juan Poblete

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

Admissions and Financial Aid

The recruitment phase of admissions takes place in the fall with events such as college nights at high schools and community colleges. Applications are due in November; the UC application is now only available as an electronic application. Students typically apply to four UC campuses, nationwide the average is 11-12 campuses. Under the direction of CAFA, admission decisions are made by the middle of March for frosh and end of April for transfers. The campus then moves into the yield cycle of events with expanded spring tours and the Spring Spotlight activities, as well as an extensive e-mail campaign. Last year UCSC admitted 17,844 frosh to yield 3,200 students.

Preparing for 2012 Frosh Admission Changes

CAFA determines admission selection criteria within the broader framework of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) who set the overall criteria and framework (comprehensive review) that Regents have approved.

This fall and winter CAFA will focus on changes to frosh admissions policy. The changes, effective fall 2012, are fairly significant for the UC system and will change campus processes. The deadline for changes to recruitment publications is the end of winter quarter 2011.

UCSC is selective, meaning every UC-eligible student who applies to Santa Cruz is not accepted (admit rate is currently 64%). Berkeley is the most selective campus with a 21% admit rate (they deny 8 of every 10 applicants). UC serves the top 12.5% of graduating high school seniors per California's Master Plan for Higher Education. In 2012 that will drop to 10% with the other 2.5% coming from a newly created pool of students formerly called "Entitled to Review" (no longer guaranteed admission).

Admission by Exception (AbyE) is reserved for students who are academically successful, but have not satisfied UC requirements for eligibility. A maximum of 6% of the enrolled freshman class can be AbyE, of that 2% are reserved for students with special talents. Not all UCs use AbyE.

The UC admission committees and BOARS are reviewing proposed changes to frosh eligibility policy - elimination of the subject tests, comprehensive review, the 9% x 9% criteria that will be used to identify 10% of California's graduating seniors and the use of a shared holistic UC score (campuses would then put in place their own values/criteria). President Yudolf will go to the Regents in November, in advance of BOARS, with his proposal to adopt holistic review for all frosh admissions. Concern was expressed that President Yudolf is usurping the Senate's purview for admission policies. CAFA will discuss holistic review this fall.

Financial Aid

Santa Cruz received 27,000 applications for financial aid, up 2,000 from last year. Sixty percent of our students are receiving some sort of financial aid; \$180 million was awarded last year from all sources (federal, state, grants, loans). The statewide deadline for applications this year was March 1, 600 applications were received late. Next year the deadline will be June 1. Priority is given to those with the lowest income. A systemwide committee determines the factors which go into allocations (e.g. return on education fees) with some redistribution of the

funding.

Currently it costs \$30,700 for all expenses to live on campus for nine months. President Yudolf wants to change the allocation of “return to aid” so that it is distributed equally, regardless of assets. Education and registration fees will be paid to those who make less than \$70K. The expectation is to award more scholarships, which we have very few of.

CAFA will review financial aid data each November and discuss appeals (rare) and compliance with federal standards (2.0 GPA, only one quarter for appeals).

Confidentiality Statement

All members and guests present signed CAFA’s confidentiality statement (<http://senate.ucsc.edu/cafa/CAFAConfidentialityStatement.pdf>).

Subcommittees

Members were asked to serve on one of CAFA’s subcommittees. Professor Birnbaum will continue as chair of the Honors and Merit Scholarship subcommittee. Membership will be finalized at the next meeting.

Honors Program

The Honors and Merit Scholarship subcommittee will work with the Committee on Educational Policy (for course approval) and the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education on development of an honors program to be submitted to the Academic Senate in spring quarter.

Honor students offered admission to Santa Cruz tend to go to Berkeley or Santa Barbara. We have a retention problem for those who do come to Santa Cruz; they stay for only one to two years. Consistent feedback from this cohort over the years is that they don’t feel challenged. Creation of a lower and upper division honors program would be a good recruitment tool and would address retention. Earlier discussion on letting honor students skip core classes was met with resistance. Professor Birnbaum will provide an update at the next meeting.

Consultation

CAFA will discuss the following topics with Chancellor Blumenthal on October 20.

- Campus fundraising goals for scholarships – those with need and high achieving students (Regents)
- Chancellor’s prospective on holistic review
- Frosh admissions, access and opportunity
- Non-resident applicants
- Funded and non-funded enrollment
(CAFA decided to fill seats that are not fully funded by non-resident students which bring in greater diversity. Non-resident student fees are kept locally. Berkeley has a target of 20 percent for this cohort. Is the chancellor willing to make an investment to draw the attention of these students?)
- Extend our appreciation for his participation in recruitment, yield events

Policy Review

CAFA will discuss the Post-Employment Benefits Report (PEB) and dissenting statement at the October 20 meeting. Committee feedback is due November 3.