

Minutes - Committee on Admissions & Financial Aid (CAFA) January 11, 2012

The Committee on Admissions & Financial Aid met on January 11, 2012, from 9:00am-11:00am, in 307 Kerr Hall.

Present: June Gordon, L.S. Kim, Chris Edwards, Andy Fisher, Hiroshi Fukurai, Tracy Larabee, Victoria Gonzalez-Pagani, Susan Strome, James Ramsay (SUA), Matthew Mednick (ASO).

Absent: Renya Ramirez, Candace Calsoyas (NSTF), Nelson Cortez (SUA), Marco Suarez (SUA), Ann Draper (Director Financial Aid & Scholarship Office).

Guests: Michelle Whittingham (AVC Enrollment Management), Michael McCawley (Director Admissions).

Chris Edwards will act as chair *pro tem* when Chair Gordon leaves at 10:30 due to unavoidable travel plans.

Approval of Minutes

Two changes were proposed for the 11/30/11 minutes. One clarification of the Honors section and the other having to do with minutes nomenclature.

BOARS Updates

A revised version of the BOARS transfer proposal will be distributed for comment prior to the next CAFA meeting. The proposal has been updated according to feedback from divisional Senates and they would like a second round of feedback from just the divisional admissions committees. BOARS' goal is to get this item on the assembly agenda by June for approval.

The committee held a short discussion on some subsections of the proposal, but pending actual distribution of the revisions, at-length discussion was tabled.

UC Application Data

Director Michael McCawley gave the committee an update on the status of the UC applications statistics, which will be followed up in hard-copy later in the week. UC had significant increase in frosh apps of 19.1% (approx. 20,000), more than in 2010-11. UCSC shows an increase of 17.2% (4,843).

Statistics were also disseminated for the three primary populations of frosh: California residents, domestic out-of-state, and international. UCLA received over 72k frosh apps, UCB 62k. Total UC non-duplicative frosh application count: 126,299; last year 106k. Systemwide this is a 9.8% increase overall with no meaningful change in California high school graduation demographics.

Overall there were increases for all underrepresented categories as well as low-API and first-generation applicants. There was also some major concern regarding the "9+9 = 10%" model (entitled to review: locally – the top 9% of each high school, and globally – the top 9% of students

statewide) which based on preliminary figures is actually sorting out to be quite a bit more than 10%. This figure will be confirmed and reported on in a future meeting.

UCSC had lower transfer applications than last year by about 1,500, or a 4.2% decrease.

Holistic Review Update

The Admissions Office has completed training for holistic review and begun reading applications. There are 21 readers this year. With the cross-over of UCSC applicants in the UCB and UCLA pools accounting for 56% of all applications, our readers still must read slightly more than 14,000 applications. While this is around 2,000 less than under the old quantitative (also Comprehensive Review) policy, the overall complexity of the reviews will be more time consuming.

It was brought to the committee's attention that issues have arisen with the UCB tool, and certain inflexibilities have led Admissions leadership to assert they would not use it again, unless they were addressed. While statistics on the reading would be premature so early in the process, Admissions plans to provide CAFA with both mid-stream data and reporting afterward on the scoring and outcomes under holistic review.

UCB will be reading applications scoring 1 only once. Scores of 2, 3, and 4 will be read two times (or as many as five, given scoring discrepancies). They are considering reading 5 scores twice. Once CAFA is provided with UCSC holistic review reading score data, the committee will need to deliberate further on how/which files will be given additional (or fewer) readings, if any.

Retention Report

The committee discussed the retention report prepared by Planning & Budget (December 2011) and was surprised that one of the report conclusions was that campus climate has not adversely impacted retention. There was also some interest that retention figures are so similar across GPA ranges, and by and large the faculty mythology about losing top students at a higher rate than others is not demonstrated. It was however noted that one could expect higher performing students to be retained at a higher rate. The committee was interested in seeing comparator institution benchmarks for retention by GPA. The report could be contextualized as supportive of the honors program pilot currently underway.

Athletics Response

CAFA again considered the OPERS proposal for early consideration of athletics program-bound students which was discussed at the 11/30/11 meeting in order to frame a response to OPERS Director Andrews. The main question the committee grappled with was is it even logistically possible for Admissions to implement this request in light of the technological limitations of using the UCB tool as well as ideological concerns of indicating any student's chances of admittance prior to completing holistic review. CAFA concluded that a complete review of all cohorts that could be considered for early review was warranted. This however would require at least the rest of this academic year as well as most likely a portion of 2012-13.

Honors

Moved discussion of Honors to the next meeting: 01/25/12.