

Minutes - Committee on Admissions & Financial Aid (CAFA) January 25, 2012

The Committee on Admissions & Financial Aid met on January 25, 2012, from 9:00am-11:00am, in 307 Kerr Hall.

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

Absent: Victoria Gonzalez-Pagani, Candace Calsoyas (NSTF), Nelson Cortez (SUA), Marco Suarez(SUA).

Guests: Michelle Whittingham (AVC Enrollment Management), Michael McCawley (Director Admissions), Ann Draper (Director Financial Aid & Scholarship Office).

Approval of Minutes

Two clarifying changes were proposed for the 1/11/12 minutes.

Member Items

Chair Gordon provided several updates from SEC pertaining to retention efforts, non-resident student yield efforts, and the differential funding provided per student across the UC system (rebenching). There was a short discussion in which it was noted that historically, non-resident tuition was marketed as the actual cost of educating a student in California and the committee questioned the re-purposing of the non-resident tuition away from the classroom.

Honors

The Honors sub-committee gave a well-received update that the honors program may be growing in 2012-13 to an additional three Colleges: Crown, Kresge, and Stevenson (Cowell having piloted). Raoul Birnbaum, professor of History of Art/Visual Culture is leading the Winter seminar in Cowell.

The sub-committee asked for specific feedback from CAFA on several issues that needed resolution in coordination with the four College Provosts. One critical issue was how much variation should be allowed between the College programs, including the residential living arrangements of the honors students. Another was the possibility of inviting additional students to join the honors program in Winter quarter. Those students would have to be identified by some mechanism by the Provosts over the course of Fall quarter.

Cowell and Crown will be grouping the students in common dorms, Stevenson and Kresge will not. CAFA was in agreement that both living situations would be acceptable, and that the distinct groups may provide important retention feedback as the program is reviewed. Winter seminars should be taught by faculty, and students should be allowed to enroll in Winter seminars in other colleges. This winter, Regents scholars are excelling and should be targeted for honors designation in the future.

CAFA also supported the sub-committee's recommendation that Winter entry of new students into the honors program not be implemented as fully as requested by the Provosts. Members of CAFA suggested a compromise solution, that Provosts be able to fill any open seats in the single honors section at the beginning of Winter quarter for the purpose of replacing attrition and some planned under enrollment (not less than 20) in Fall. This would provide experimental flexibility in the first-year program and valuable tracking information to be reviewed after the first year, to help determine if Winter entry should be expanded or decreased in the future.

The sub-committee will continue to work on honors student selection and minimum requirements with the Director of Admissions.

Transfer Policy

CAFA reviewed a revised draft of the BOARS Transfer Policy which they plan to submit with edits for Academic Council approval by the end of the academic year. Attendees provided diverse and thoughtful feedback both in support of the proposal and questions or proposed changes. The primary feedback was that the proposal's stated goal of simplifying the process is undermined by enumerating several gateways into UC as well as some concern about campus-level decision-making and resource management.

International Student Proposal

AVC Whittingham presented her office's revision/clarification to several international student proposals which CAFA discussed originally in fall.

CAFA unanimously approved the proposed change to conditionally admit (pending their submission of the required documentation) qualified international students who have not yet completed their English language proficiency (TOEFL, etc.) with the requirement they submit the proof of proficiency, along with the SAT or ACT by the required deadline of July 15 in order to begin processing their I-20.

The committee expressed some concerns with a requirement of enrollment in UCSC Extension's re-launched English Language Program for undergraduates. Several members were concerned that the price differential with competing English language programs might be a deterrent for some individuals. Overall, the committee was in agreement that UCSC Extension's goal to enroll 20 students for fall 2012 was both modest and appropriate given that communications from our Admissions Office were clear that students must be selected based on the same level of review as all other international students in the applicant pool, with the exception of the pending language proficiency and SAT/ACT requirement.

CAFA unanimously approved the proposed change to allow Admissions to review UC TAG applicant students with prior international coursework (both domestic students and international students). CAFA noted the associated work-load increase and was fully supportive of the rationale that additional staff would be helpful, even required, to operationalize them.

Lower-Division International Transfers: While there was short discussion of the consideration of both international and domestic applicants as lower division students if they fall outside of the freshman category and have not yet reached junior level standing, there was not consensus on this issue, or the opportunity for a full discussion of this critically important potential applicant cohort. CAFA plans to more thoroughly consider this issue later in the academic year.