

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA)
Minutes
January 14, 2015
Kerr 307

Present: Minghui Hu (Chair), Mark Carr, Jean E. Foxtree, Joy Hagen, David Helmbold, Ted Warburton, Deanna Shemek, David Smith, Lila Blackney (UG Rep), Justin McClendon (UG Rep), Sophia Mauricio (UG Rep), Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst), Matthew Mednick (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Megan Moodie, Yi Zhang

Guests: Richard Hughey, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, Michelle Whittingham, Associate Vice Chancellor Enrollment Management. Michael McCalwey, Director Office of Admissions

Consent Agenda

Minutes for the CAFA meetings of November 19, and December 3, 2014 were approved by the committee.

WASC Accreditation

Chair Hu asked that members bring forward any issues identified during their review of the draft UCSC WASC Accreditation submission. Members noted that although there was not any significant discussion of admissions in this document, this issue did not warrant formal CAFA comment, and would leave any feedback related to learning outcomes to more purview-related committees.

Nonresident Compare Favorably Report to Administration

In keeping with the compare favorably standards (nonresidents compared to CA residents based on academic profile including GPA and test scores) identified by BOARS, the campus will be expected to provide a summary of our nonresident admissions efforts to BOARS by the end of the month. Additionally, this is a good opportunity for CAFA to check in with the administration (VPDUE, Enrollment Management, and Office of Admissions) on the fall 2014 outcomes, adjustments to policy and implementation for fall 2015 admissions, and communications strategy related to our undergraduate demographics overall. Based on this consultation, CAFA will author a memo to VPDUE Hughey on its findings, and will incorporate any feedback into its final response to BOARS.

In consultation with Office of Admissions Director McCawley, CAFA was reminded of the proportionality (CA residents to non-residents) of the compare favorably data. The overall numbers, as opposed to percentages, are important to understand. Given the low rate of non-resident application, admission and enrollment only two academic years prior (16 in fall 2012), these data are unsurprising given the dramatic rise in enrollment targets for this population. As we proceed, CAFA will be especially interested to see the outcomes of your planned outreach to increase non-resident application and statement of intent to register (SIR) yield rates. Increasing the academically prepared non-resident application pool is the best possible way to address the

compare favorably statistics, and alleviate any potential student success and retention concerns.

40% of CA residents were offered admission from within the score of 4-4.88 range. Domestic and international nonresidents were offered admission from within the score of 4-4.88 at 89% and 87% respectively. Although the application pools were separated precisely for this reason, to facilitate differential admission rates, the proportions and academic qualifications of the non-residents admitted are troubling to CAFA. As our application pool increases, CAFA will expect to see our selectivity sharply increase. CAFA believes it is important to see the performance of these students before repeating such a high admission rate, unless the quality of the pool increases abruptly.

The risk of admitting underprepared out-of-state students -- both to those students' college career and to UCSC's reputation among out-of-state applicants -- is precisely the rationale for the Senate's strong support for the development of robust pipelines, partnerships, and reputation in this area, to augment the number of qualified non-resident applicants from which to admit a strong representative cohort. The desire to admit students more likely to succeed led to CAFA's insistence that the fall 2015 cycle include an adjudication review process, created specifically to track the accuracy with which Office of Admission readers assess and contextualize academic performance, and to ensure overall reader consistency. CAFA requested that it be given the opportunity to review and approve the proposed admission rates in each residency category after all applications are holistically read and before offers are made, to balance the interests of meeting enrollment targets, to expand future application pools, complying with the "compare favorably" policy, and ensuring the probable success of students who are offered admission.

Admission by Exception (AbyE) Revisions

AVC Enrollment Management Whittingham proposed several edits to the existing policy which CAFA has taken under advisement. In particular, CAFA was interested in the "geometry issue", UC policy holds that all eligible students have taken geometry during their high school curriculum, though an exception has arisen where some advanced students skip geometry (or other like requirements) having taken more advanced coursework in high school or even middle-school. In this case, an exception was created in the CAFA AbyE policy to allow for the substitution of more advanced coursework for specifically cited high school requirements, like advanced algebra/calculus for geometry.

A related but separate issue, to allow for a like substitution in the case of lab science coursework for proposed science majors was discussed and then not taken up.

Admissions Pilot Proposal from UCOP

CAFA has been asked to review an inquiry from AVP Undergraduate Admissions at UCOP about a policy that would allow campuses to compete for high-performing California resident applicants who are admitted to pre-selected competitor colleges and universities. CAFA had numerous questions and objections to the proposed pilot.

CAFA's discussion of concerns included:

- The campus hands some level of admissions authority to other institutions.
- These other institutions use admissions criteria which do not directly compare to those

established by BOARS/UC.

- It is unclear what the process for selecting competitor schools should be.
- UCSC's process by which we select applicants who have the greatest potential for success here, and who contribute to our campus' overall culture/climate would be randomized by these additional admits.
- It is unclear what proportion of admits would be reserved for this pilot, would all UC's be required to take the same number, we have seen some campuses be disproportionately impacted by other initiatives, and UCSC can ill afford to undertake this change given its rapidly changing (increasing) selectivity.

UCSC International Recruitment Plan

Following up on the overview presented on December 3, 2014 by AVC Whittingham, the committee discussed the specifics of the current UCSC international recruitment plan. They are currently focused on name recognition and using current or future students to tap into their personal and/or institution networks. National applications increased to 2,967 and international to 4,572. This bodes well for our campus meeting admission targets while still maintaining compare favorably standards.

CAFA was curious if they are still analyzing what the target populations should be? We have never heard clear feedback on the desired proportion of national and international students.

We don't have feeder schools yet, and the administration confirmed that they are not looking working on building these types of relationships. The administration asked for clarity on what the Senate/CAFA define as pipelines.