

SANTA CRUZ: OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA)
MINUTES
May 7, 2015
307 Kerr Hall, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Present: Minghui Hu (Chair), Mark Carr, Jean Fox Tree, David Helmbold, Megan Moodie, David Smith, Ted Warburton, Yi Zhang, Joy Hagen (NSTF), Justin McClendon (Undergraduate Student Rep)

Absent: Lila Blackney (Undergraduate Student Rep), Sophia Mauricio (Undergraduate Student Rep)

Guests: Richard Hughey (Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education), Michelle Whittingham (AVC Enrollment Management), Michael McCawley (Admissions Director)

Member's Items

Member Smith represented CAFA at the systemwide BOARS meeting of May 1, 2015. Topics discussed included ongoing negotiations with the Governor over funding to the UC, potential streamlining of time to degree, a consultation with the Governor's representatives that included questions from the representatives about compare favorably. Member Smith also reported that BOARS briefly discussed raising the minimum TOEFL scores and UC Berkeley's planned changes to their admissions process.

Transfer Admissions Pathway Update

Chair Hu provided an update on the UC Transfer Admissions streamlining initiative. This initiative is intended to streamline major transfer pathways from the California Community Colleges to UC campuses, through identification of a common set of lower-division courses for each major that would make students competitive for UC admission as a junior level transfer. The initiative is focused on ten majors. The committee raised issues, including that a common set of requirements might in fact create a "super-set" that, in practice, actually hinders students from transferring into particular majors at UCSC. The committee also discussed the possibility of having a link to campus requirements from the transfer admissions pathway website as one possible workaround. Academic Council is working with the divisions to draft the major preparation pathways, and three CAFA members are continuing to work on this and will update the committee as the initiative moves forward.

Fall 2015 Preliminary Statement of Intent to Register Data

Members reviewed confidential preliminary data on Frosh Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) outcomes for fall 2015. CAFA engaged in preliminary discussion of outcomes, and will identify questions for planning purposes once full yield data is available.

Undergraduate Dean's Award

The committee reviewed a draft of its formal response to the administration, which has proposed strategic changes to the Undergraduate Dean's Award in order to reduce the nonresident tuition discount rate to 10% by 2020. In its discussion, CAFA raised augmenting the quality of the nonresident pool as one significant factor to consider.

CAFA agreed that it supports the strategy to use the Undergraduate Dean's Award to target high performing nonresident students with either a scholarship or award. The committee agreed that applicants with Holistic Review scores (HRS) of 1 and 2 and First Year honors Program invitees should be offered the highest scholarship divided equally over four years regardless of self-reported income levels. Applicants with lower HRSs should be offered lower awards, and some will receive no awards based on self-reported family income, depending on annual analysis. Income level considerations may be modulated to ensure awards

promote geographic diversity. Transfer student awards should follow a similar pattern, yet the awards will be distributed over two years. CAFA recognized the challenges involved in decreasing the overall discount rate while continuing to grow enrollments, and noted adjustments will be made annually after a careful analysis of outcomes based on income levels and HRSs. In the future, it might be appropriate to consider and differentiate among majors in the allocation of awards to facilitate recruitment to those majors that have difficulty recruiting deserving students for financial reasons.

The committee recommended that the Undergraduate Dean's Awards and Scholarships be reviewed annually in late fall by CAFA, the Committee on International Education (CIE), and the Committee on Planning & Budget (CPB). This review should include the prior year's admissions/awards outcomes, and a proposal by the Undergraduate Education division for any changes to the award distributions. CAFA will take the comments of CIE and CPB under advisement as it directs this program for the coming cycle.

Black Experience Team Update

At its meeting of April 22, 2015, the committee discussed delaying a response to the request by BET Co-Chair AVC Whittingham to write a letter of support until 1) the committee has a clearer understanding of what specifically it is being asked to support, and 2) the committee has the opportunity to review the final BET report set for release in June of this year. AVC Whittingham then asked CAFA to consider a statement of support for the BET vision statement.

CAFA deliberated several issues including the definition of critical mass and the committee's role in supporting measure of critical mass, varyingly defined. After much discussion, the committee highlighted its support for the promotion of diversity on the UCSC campus, and noted its recognition of the unique experience of African American students in particular. The committee acknowledged how a critical mass of African American, Black, and Caribbean (ABC) students would greatly benefit the campus, and members expressed appreciation for the large literature that supports the idea that a critical mass can mitigate against a sense of marginalization and isolation. CAFA, given its goal to promote the diversity of the UCSC campus, supported the vision and philosophy underlying the qualitative goal of critical mass. The committee will review the final report and recommendations of the BET Task force in fall 2015.