

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA)
MINUTES
May 20, 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, Yi Zhang, Joy Hagen (NSTF)

Absent: Ted Warburton, Lila Blackney (Undergraduate Student Rep), Sophia Mauricio (Undergraduate Student Rep), Justin McClendon (Undergraduate Student Rep)

Guests: Richard Hughey, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education; Michelle Whittingham AVC Enrollment Management

Member's Items

None.

Transfer Admissions Pathways: Campus Progress Report

The committee continued its discussion of the Transfer Admissions Pathway (TAP) report. Academic Council Chair Mary Gilly has requested that all UCs finalize a report on the approval status of each of the transfer pathways at their campus. At its meeting of May 6, 2015, members raised concerns about the impact on specific majors, including about the “super-set” approach to the pathways and its potential impact on the Physics department. At today’s meeting, Chair Hu reported that the campus is on board, and the pathways have been approved on campus, although some departments raised concerns. Each campus will retain the capability to put its specific requirements, if they differ from the TAP, on its website. The committee discussed whether this was enough, and what impact this might have on students. The committee also raised that the pathways are encouraging students to take additional courses they might not need.

The committee critiqued the process by which the campuses have been asked to respond to this issue, directly to the Academic Council Chair rather than via the systemwide BOARS.

CAFA will communicate to Academic Chair Gilly that all ten major pathways have been approved, and additionally will raise the concerns with “superset” requirements, which may discourage students from applying or may delay their transfer unnecessarily.

CAFA Data Request Plan Discussion

During winter quarter the committee discussed what data would be useful to review on an annual basis to help the committee in its consideration of admission criteria and selection decisions. The committee revisited this issue at today’s meeting, with the goal of identifying the most relevant data needs as well as best sources for each request (i.e. Enrollment Management, Institutional Research).

Chair Hu expressed appreciation to VPDUE Hughey and AVC Whittingham for keeping the committee informed and updated on admissions and outcomes data. He also noted that next meeting, Admissions Director McCawley will provide an overview of how adjudication review worked during this admissions cycle.

The committee highlighted that information flow has been somewhat ad hoc in past year. Members identified the goal of standardizing an information request on an annual cycle. However, the committee raised that it needs to understand from the administration the relative difficulty of providing various data,

so the committee can better identify what data is crucial but difficult to get, what is easy to get, and what is difficult and not crucial for the committee.

A data subcommittee member raised that he would like to generate a measure of success that goes beyond the first year, because first generation students might not do well in their first year, but need an extra year to acclimate to college. Members also raised potentially having data on multiple demographic characteristics, alternative indices to SSI to measure success, and TOEFL scores. AVC Whittingham suggested that the committee think in terms of what it wants to measure, what the committee wants to know, and what best data elements are needed to get there.

The committee agreed to schedule a data subcommittee meeting with AVC Whittingham before the end of the year to further discuss this issue.

Yield Report & Enrollment Management Updates

AVC Whittingham provided an update on Frosh Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) data for fall 2015. Noting the information is preliminary, she highlighted an increase in SIRs in the higher GPA bands. Overall, she concluded that the campus is more desirable to college applicants this year. Systemwide demographic data has not yet been released. Out of state and International SSI is lower than predicted. Members expressed they would like to examine selected international cases. This is an issue the data subcommittee will examine.