

Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA)
Minutes
October 22, 2014
Kerr 307

Present: Minghui Hu (Chair), Jean E. Foxtree, Joy Hagen, David Helmbold, Ted Warburton, Deanna Shemek, David Smith, Yi Zhang, Esthela Bañuelos (Senate Analyst), Matthew Mednick (Senate Analyst)

Absent: Mark Carr, Lila Blackney (Undergraduate Rep), Justin McClendon (Undergraduate Rep), Victor Garcia-Zepeda (Undergraduate Rep)

Guests: Richard Hughey, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education, Patrick Register, Financial Aid Director, Michelle Whittingham, Associate Vice Chancellor Enrollment Management

Member's Items

The committee members confirmed their subcommittee assignments, which include primary consideration of specific issues, as well as some extra-committee commitments, i.e. appeals subcommittee members which meet through summer and fall with the Cancellation Appeals Review Committee. Subcommittees include Data: David Helmbold, Yi Zhang, David Smith; Appeal: Mark Carr, Ted Warburton; Financial Aid: Minghui Hu, Jean E. Fox Tree; Publication: Deanna Shemek, Megan Moodie.

Graduate Growth

The committee held a brief discussion of the Guiding Principles for Graduate Growth which the Senate Executive Committee authored, and which are scheduled for discussed at the Academic Senate Meeting of November 7th. In particular, the committee questioned the phrasing in the document which assigned graduate growth responsibility to programs and not departments, this issue will be raised at the Senate Meeting for further discussion. Additionally, the committee was concerned that the focus of the document seemed to focus on growing (new) interdisciplinary programs rather than established programs with name recognition. The committee expressed a clear desire that both possibilities be considered.

Two separate but important issues include, confusion about if Ph.D. and M.F.A. growth are conflated in the calculation. Although both are considered terminal degrees at UCSC, the Graduate Growth mandate calls for Ph.D. growth as a percentage of total undergraduates. We should be desirous of M.F.A. growth where appropriate. We also need to be mindful that as graduates increase, there will be changes in the availability of TA resources, which may impact our departmental allocations of support packages to graduates.

Brazil Scientific Mobility Program

The committee reviewed the proposed Brazil Scientific Mobility program which was forwarded by VPDUE Hughey. CAFA had to concerns which the program policy as outlined:

One concern was with the TOEFL score requirement, which seems too low given that the students are expected to attend UCSC courses for only one quarter at the upper division level. If here for just one quarter, these students will need to come with very strong English skills, therefore the committee suggested increasing the TOEFL score requirement.

Of additional concern, given the student intent numbers from last year and nationwide trends indicate a growing wave of interest in Computer Science and engineering areas, there is the potential for capacity challenges. CAFA insists that we establish a clear priority for our native students over these BSMP enrollees for impacted classes, and this matter should be disclosed to the host campus at the outset of the program..

Financial Aid Presentation

Financial Aid Director Patrick Register presented an overview of campus Financial Aid issues for the committee. Topics covered included: Financial Aid Office staffing, high-level statistics on aid disbursed, Satisfactory Academic Progress, middle-class scholarships, work-study, and merit-based scholarships.

Review of Admissions Cycle

Michelle Wittingham provided the committee with a documented overview of the enrollment management and admissions calendar cycles. CAFA's areas of direct involvement were highlighted, and using this information, CAFA was able to target two issues to collaborate on. Once all the applications are in the system by late January early February, the committee will want to look at demographic breakdown data. This will help the committee to understand the pressure-level on our admissions reading and scoring.

CAFA is also concerned about the enrollment targets that we set as a campus for all three populations, CA resident, national, and international applicants. Given the increase in our selectivity, and variability in applicant demand for admission to UCSC, it seems prudent that CAFA and other related senate committees take on a larger role in setting admission targets to yield the proper number of SIRs. AVC Whittingham informed the committee that her office has hired a consultant to assist with the enrollment management predictive modeling for our fall 2015 class. CAFA was gratified to learn that this additional modeling will be taking place, and would like a Data Subcommittee member(s) invited to the consultant meetings later this year as we plan for our next frosh and transfer classes.