COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID

Report on the Use of Supplemental Subject Matter Tests
in the UC Admissions Process

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA) has received and considered recommendations from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) regarding a set of principles to serve as the foundation for the University of California’s admissions testing policy and suggesting future directions for specific tests the University should adopt. After due deliberation, CAFA supports the BOARS recommendations.

The BOARS recommendation has two elements:

1) “a new “core” examination covering the essential competencies needed for successful college work—reading, writing, and mathematics;”

2) “two one-hour long examinations in specific content areas within the subjects covered by the University’s “a-g” requirements, allowing for some level of student choice in the selection of specific tests.”

With regard to the use of supplemental subject matter examinations in the determination of UC eligibility, BOARS recommends that:

1) Students be required to submit scores on two supplemental subject examinations to be chosen from two of the six curricular areas specified by the University’s “a-g” course requirements; and

2) On a provisional basis, scores from these tests be weighted equally to the scores from the three components of the new core examination, such that the core examination accounts for sixty percent of the test score component of the University’s Eligibility Index and the two supplemental subject matter examination scores account for forty percent. The relative weight in the Index of test scores versus grades would not change—i.e., high school grades would remain the dominant factor in the Eligibility Index.

The complete report from BOARS is available at http://www.ucop.edu/senate/supptests.pdf

Respectfully submitted,

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