

Report of the Representative to the Assembly of the Academic Senate**June 30, 2004**

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The statewide assembly of the Academic Senate met via teleconference on June 30, 2004. President Dynes gave a brief statement in favor of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) plan. He asserted that the plan maintains academic achievement as the main basis for eligibility, avoids major changes and is aligned with the master plan.

The discussion of the BOARS plan then began with an overview of the plan by BOARS Chair Barbara Sawrey. The last change in eligibility was in 1996 when 12.5% of high school graduates were eligible. UC then added the top 4% of each high school's graduates as eligible so that the latest estimates suggest that 14.4% of high schools graduates are eligible. Therefore the main goal of this proposal was to bring the eligibility back to 12.5%. This will be achieved by the following measures.

1. GPA will be calculated from all the A-G courses, not just selective courses.
2. Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) program would require completion of requirements by end of senior year.

These two procedural changes will reduce the eligibility by 1.5%, to 13% and are recommended to be imposed immediately. However, this does not bring UC to the desired 12.5%, so additional changes were needed.

3. The minimum GPA will be increased from 2.8 to 3.1.

The GPA was the one admission requirement targeted because it is the single best indicator of success and is under the best control of the students. It will also allow UC to raise the academic excellence with the least effect on student diversity. This change was recommended to come into effect in the fall of 2007, thus giving students 2 years to improve their grades.

4. Further adjustments may be needed if 12.5% is not attained with the above adjustments.
5. Recommends additional study of effects of increasing percentage of graduates from each CA high school.

At this point, the proposal was opened for discussion.

The majority of the campus representatives agreed that the GPA was the best requirement to change but were still concerns that raising the GPA would affect under-represented groups disproportionately. Many representatives advised a reassessment after the first year of implementation. Barbara Sawrey responded that UC is treading a fine line, Prop. 209 stops UC from dealing with this directly but Federal regulators mandate changes cannot affect under-represented groups disproportionately. Barbara Sawrey stated that this was a tough decision but that it was the best option at this time. She also mentioned that 6% of admitted students can be designated as exceptions but that many campuses do not use this option. There was additional discussion regarding the need to implement the GPA increase so soon and a few delegates expressed a desire to wait and reassess at a later date. Barbara Sawrey responded by saying that UC is required to set our eligibility lower now and we cannot delay. We can reassess the requirements later if needed.

There was then a friendly amendment to remove recommendation 5 (see above), since BOARS will already be doing this. It was accepted unanimously.

A vote was finally taken on the entire, original proposal (minus recommendation 5) and it was accepted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY
Ted Holman
June 30, 2004