

## **Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid 2017-18 Annual Report**

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

The Committee on Admissions and Financial Aid (CAFA) continued its annual work evaluating the outcomes of the prior (2017) admissions cycle and adapting its consistent priorities to changing circumstances in shaping the class entering in fall 2018. As always, we worked closely with Undergraduate Education, Enrollment Management, and Admissions, whose energy and creativity provided us with both information and options for setting policy.

### **I. WORK OF CAFA IN 2017-18**

#### **A. Committee Foci**

##### ***1. Holistic Review of frosh applicants***

This year CAFA continued in its efforts to refine the Holistic Review (HR) policy that has served as the primary admissions policy for the campus since it instituted its own holistic review process in 2012. CAFA's priorities in shaping the class were consistent with last year's: ensuring first that every student offered admission is sufficiently prepared to succeed at UCSC, and among that population shaping a diverse class, both as a way to make sure we provide opportunity to all Californians and as a goal in itself for the intellectual, social and cultural benefit of the whole student body. We placed particular emphasis, within the constraints of Proposition 209, on increasing underrepresented groups that have a strong representation in our state but tend to not reach a "critical mass" that we would like to see on our campus. During winter quarter the committee deliberated a set of admission scenarios provided by Enrollment Management and reviewed a set of diversity-promoting recommendations introduced by Michelle Whittingham, Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management (AVCEM). These recommendations proposed varying combinations of minimum Holistic Review Scores (HRS), student success indicator scores (SSI), combined with other academic and diversity indicators such as eligibility in the state context, (top 9% of all high school seniors), eligibility in the local context (top 9% of a participating high school's graduating class), and first generation college student status, among others. After deliberating over the scenarios and their hypothetical outcomes for the incoming cohort, CAFA arrived at a decision that members agreed would meet our campus goals of selecting a frosh cohort of both strong academic preparedness and economic, racial/ethnic, and geographical diversity.

##### ***2. Transfer students and "2:1"***

Last year a requirement was established by the Governor and University of California Office of the President (UCOP) that each campus in the UC system admit one transfer student for every two admitted frosh, referred to as the 2:1 transfer ratio. As part of his May budget revision, Gov. Jerry Brown requested that \$50 million be withheld from the University of California system

until recommendations from a California State Auditor's report and other state commitments are implemented by the University. One of the stipulations is that the University must provide sufficient evidence that all university campuses, except UC Merced and UCSF, are on track to meet an enrollment ratio of 2 new incoming freshman for every 1 new incoming transfer by the 2018-19 academic year.

In response to 2:1, CAFA, in conjunction with the division of Undergraduate Education (UE) and the Committee for Educational Policy (CEP), worked to create admissions requirements to ensure that the entering transfer students understood the requirements necessary for transfer and that they were adequately prepared for the rigors of study at UCSC. In Section III the data relating to transfer admissions is detailed and UCSC did take a substantial step in achieving the goal of 2:1.

CAFA and CEP co-drafted correspondence to Professor Henry Sanchez, Chair, Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) regarding a proposed policy brought to BOARS by UCOP that would require every UC undergraduate major program to provide a minimum of two years advance notice before implementing any change to major prerequisite course requirements for junior transfer admission. The joint letter addressed concerns of the two committees in pertinent part, "we believe that it would be best for BOARS to state the principle that community college students should have adequate time to enroll in their required classes which, depending on the prerequisite change, may mean a two-year advance notice, and leave it to local committees on each campus to determine when such a longer advance notice period would be appropriate." While CAFA and CEP were concerned over the possibility of this becoming a mandated policy, BOARS later provided clarification that it was only a suggested practice.

### ***3. Nonresident Admissions***

In May of 2017, the UC Regents voted to cap nonresident undergraduate enrollment to 18% at UC Davis, UC Santa Barbara, UC Santa Cruz, UC Riverside and UC Merced. Four campuses that already exceed that level — UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego and UC Irvine — were allowed to keep but not increase the higher percentage they enroll in 2017-18. UCSC is not likely to approach this cap within the next few years. UCSC recognizes that nonresident students enhance the intellectual and cultural experiences for the entire campus. In 2017-2018 CAFA, CEP, and the Committee for International Education (CIE) worked closely to strengthen and expand our global profile through the International Visitors and UCSC Exchange Programs, a project that was spearheaded by UE. As a result of our collaborative efforts, the International Visitors and UCSC Exchange will allow strong students, as indicated by their TOEFL, GPA, and positive applicant reviews, from approved institutes, to enroll at UCSC. This program will allow students to enroll for up to a full year. The program is capped at 30 students. Members of CAFA feel that this program will help enhance the student experience on campus and allow the reputation of UCSC to grow globally.

### *a. Compare Favorably*

Adopted in 2011, BOARS' Compare Favorably policy requires nonresident domestic and international students admitted to a UC campus to be at least as qualified, on average, as California residents admitted to the same campus. The policy was designed to align with the UC Board of Regents' changes to its undergraduate student eligibility and admissions policy in 2009 and to ensure that each campus adhered to the Compare Favorably policy.<sup>1</sup>

In October 2017, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 1674<sup>2</sup> which requires UC to ensure "the academic qualifications of resident undergraduate students admitted at each campus." AB 1674 bears directly on the issue of Compare Favorably which has been the subject of increased scrutiny on the part of the Governor and Legislature in recent years. As part of its annual calendar, CAFA provides a report on the status of Compare Favorably at UCSC.

CAFA continued in its use of a local policy referred to as "common floor" implemented in the last cycle. Under this policy, no out-of-state student is admitted who could not have been admitted as a California resident -- there is a common floor on the Student Success Indicator (which, like UC Academic Index, is a combination of SAT/ACT test scores and GPA) for students in all residency categories. For purposes of making sure that all admitted students are prepared for success, UCSC puts more weight on the common floor as it minimizes the variance in student preparedness than simply comparing the averages.

### *4. Early Consideration*

In May of 2017, CAFA approved an early notification policy for the campus that went into effect fall of 2017. Under the policy, early notification is reserved for specific individuals targeted for recruitment by specific parties such as head coaches for each athletic team, department chairs, directors of musical groups, within the selection criteria parameters established by the committee. Recruiters submit a list of student names, their reason for recruitment, and any correspondence with the prospective student to UE. For the fall of 2018, a total of 88 students were nominated. Of the 88, 77 students were admitted under the policy with HR scores 1-4.

During the 2017 cycle, the process yielded valuable information regarding recruiters' understanding of the early notification policy. It has become clear to CAFA that the nomenclature of the policy may be misleading to our recruiters. Specifically, CAFA decided that "Early Consideration" is more in line with the goals of the program and is preferable as "consideration" removes any suggestion that spots were being "reserved" for specific students or that admission to the university was guaranteed. This was never the intent as the policy was established to allow nominating units to put forth names of students they had identified as exceptional through direct recruitment or other means. These students are subject to the same review process as all other students, the main difference being their applications are reviewed earlier for consideration for admission under the criteria established by CAFA. Early consideration provides talented students who are sometimes being recruited by multiple

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<sup>1</sup> [https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/\\_files/committees/boars/Compare-Favorably-Report-to-President-July-2017.pdf](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/committees/boars/Compare-Favorably-Report-to-President-July-2017.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201720180AB1674](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB1674)

universities with the information they need to make their college decisions early-on and allows UCSC to show their committed interest in these prospective students. CAFA also established that, at least for the first few years of implementation, reminders will be sent to each Division to reiterate the fact that Early Consideration is equally available across all University disciplines. Members of CAFA emphasize that Early Consideration is a campus wide policy.

### ***5. Computer Science Department Designation as Impacted Major***

Late in the 2016-17 academic year, Computer Science (CS) submitted a request that they be designated as an impacted major pursuant to the newly implemented process submitted for Senate review earlier in that same year. The admissions data in this report revealed a startling rate of growth in the Computer Science program at UCSC, especially compared to large and small CS programs across the nation. While the interest in CS is positive, the main concern is compromising the quality of education for our incoming and current students due to lack of resources, larger class sizes, and increase in course demands which cannot be met. During the fall quarter CAFA, CEP and UE met to discuss what could be done to alleviate the stress being placed on CS due to over enrollment in the major. The short timeframe put constraints on the level of detail that could be used to control admission and ultimately enrollment into the CS major. It was decided that preliminary tools could be utilized at the outset that could evolve into permanent processes. CAFA, CEP, and UE agreed to use the Computer Science Index (CSI) which was a combination of high school GPA and Math SAT score as a first pass at limiting the number of qualified applicants who were interested in pursuing a CS major. Overall, the incoming fall 2018 cohort is academically very strong. CS should have students that can meet the rigors of the CS requirements, especially since all potential CS students were also evaluated based on the CS metric as outlined above.

According to our data for the proposed SIRs and accounting for transfer students enrolling in CS, and preventing lateral entry into the major, CS should have below 600 students which is the carrying capacity noted in the impaction request.

## **B. Subcommittee Efforts**

### ***1. Appeals Subcommittee***

The appeals subcommittee worked closely with UE, Enrollment Management, and Admissions to streamline the appeals requirements for students who were denied admission to UCSC or whose admissions were cancelled due to a variety of circumstances such as poor grades during their senior year that did not reflect their previous performance as evaluated on their college applications; not corresponding with admissions about a change in their reported coursework; not providing the necessary documentation for completing coursework at different institutes; among the many other reasons for cancellation. This year, all appeals were submitted online and clear guidelines for the appeal were provided on the admissions website. Students were asked to explain the reason for their appeal in 500 words and supporting documentation was welcome. The members of CAFA's Appeals Subcommittee also served on the Cancellation Appeals Review Committee (CARC) along with the Interim Director of Admissions and the Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management. CARC began reviewing appeals in June and will

likely continue into September. As decisions are made, notifications to students are made by MyUCSC portal and by email.

## ***2. Data Subcommittee***

The primary project of the Data Subcommittee was to spend extra time reviewing particular selection scenarios for the frosh class with Enrollment Management, so that a small and clearly described set of options could be presented for discussion with the committee as a whole. The Data Subcommittee which was comprised of two CAFA members, met with the VPDUE, Interim Director of Admissions, and AVCEM throughout the academic year. Many issues related at these meetings were brought up with all CAFA members at the following CAFA meeting.

## ***3. College Scholars Subcommittee***

The College Scholars Subcommittee worked with the parallel subcommittee of CEP to draft a report that summarizes the history and scope of the successful College Scholars Program (CSP) as well as provide recommendations focused on its longer term future (included below).

- Solicit information about student experience: Work with Institutional Research, Assessment, and Policy Studies (IRAPS) to design a survey for students who participated in CSP 2016-17 and 2017-18 in order to understand the ways in which the program enriches the academic experience for participating students and to solicit thoughts on what improvements could be made.
- Expand fall-start CSP to all colleges: While all ten colleges participate in spring-start CSP, only four colleges participate in fall-start CSP. We recommend that students at all colleges be given access to both fall- and spring-start CSP and that the campus commit the resources needed to do so. This alleviates the conflict created for students who wish to be in CSP but also have a strong affinity for one of the colleges that does not participate in fall-start. Expanding CSP in this way requires a commitment from the campus to admit about 200 to 300 students into CSP each year, which ensures a critical mass in each college.
- Encourage and stabilize faculty participation in CSP: In order to succeed in the long term, CSP must become a campus priority. Optimally, divisional deans and/or the EVC would provide funding for a small number of faculty to teach courses in the CSP curriculum. The program has never been hard-funded, and has mostly relied on the goodwill of faculty who believe in the program and the availability of soft-funding in UE and the participating colleges.
- Dedicate space to CSP: We recommend that CSP be allocated space in the renovated Science and Engineering Library (approximately 500 sq. ft.), for use as a central place to study, congregate, socialize and participate in CSP activities during certain hours of the week. A dedicated space would make it possible for CSP students across different years to interact with each other, broadening and diversifying the community; provide peer mentoring; and organize events (such as lectures and symposia). A dedicated space

would also expand the reach of CSP beyond the fourth quarter of the program (when official CSP activities terminate) and have an impact on each participant's development through graduation. With a central location in the S&E Library, many senior CSP participants would be well-positioned and well-suited to participate in any tutoring (e.g. MSI) and peer mentoring activities that take place in the new library space.

## **II. ISSUES FOR THE NEAR FUTURE**

### **A. Transfer and 2:1**

In 2017-18, the President of the University of California, Janet Napolitano, convened a Transfer Pathway Task force which drafted a two proposals: 1) a proposal for a guaranteed admission pilot via Associate Degrees for Transfer in chemistry and physics, and 2) a proposal for a systemwide transfer admission guarantee. On April 6, 2018, the Board on Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) and began to address the recommendations of the Transfer Taskforce and a memorandum of understanding between California Community Colleges and the University of California in regards to UC Systemwide Transfer Guarantee, writing, "BOARS will develop revised policy to Academic Senate Regulations Part II Admissions Title I Academic Colleges Article 1 General Provisions 476 (SR 476) to start the implementation in the fall 2019 of entering California Community College students." This was relayed to the Academic Council in correspondence dated April 23, 2018. The Academic Council reviewed the proposals on April 25, 2018 and drafted a memorandum to President Napolitano indicating the Academic Senate's expectation that policy would "be implemented to guide the fall 2019 entering California Community College students." It is CAFA's expectation that Academic Council (advised by BOARS) and subsequently the admissions committees of the 10 campuses will have the final say on what is ultimately implemented as admissions policy, consistent with Standing Order of the Regents (SOR) 105.2 that provides, "The Academic Senate, subject to the approval of the Board, shall determine the conditions for admission."

### **B. Major Impaction**

CAFA will need to work with BSOE, Admissions, and the Computer Science Department (CS) to create processes and procedures that will allow CS and the campus to regulate the number of students that enroll into the program.

### **C. Compare Favorably**

CAFA will continue to ensure that admission of nonresident students is consistent with the overall admission goals of our campus, comprehensive review admissions policy, and the holistic review process in place at UCSC.

#### **D. International Visitor and Exchange Students**

CAFA is looking forward to assessing the International Visitor and Exchange Students program and providing an analysis of the outcomes of the exchange over the next two years.

#### **E. Early Consideration**

Our hope is that we will have smooth recruitment in this next admission cycle with Early Consideration and that the campus-wide policy may be reflected in our student diversity.

#### **F. Subcommittee Efforts**

CAFA will follow up on the subcommittee efforts such as assessment of the College Scholars program.

### **III. ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID FOR FALL 2017**

#### **A. Admissions**

A brief summary of UC Santa Cruz admissions preliminary outcome data provided by the Division of Undergraduate Education's Office of Enrollment Management is outlined below. Admissions is dynamic, and not all data, such as residency or enrollment estimates, are final.

UC Santa Cruz received 68,447 applications. Frosh applications totaled 56,634 (CA = 45,886, out of state = 3,778, and international = 6,970) and transfer applications totaled 11,813 (CA = 10,317, out of state = 214, and international = 1,282). As with last year, the campus was open for winter transfer applications in selected majors. As of the writing of this report, we have received 393 applications for winter 2019 transfer admission; with a large fall 2018 transfer class, admission for winter will be highly constrained.

UC Santa Cruz admitted 27,014 frosh for fall 2018, including 18,748 California, 3,003 out of state and 5,263 international. The frosh admission rate was 47.7%. The average high school GPA of admitted frosh was 3.93 (on a 4.4 weighted scale), a 1% increase from fall 2017. The average SAT score taken under the new test system is 1322, a 3.6% increase. To manage the newly-established Computer Science capacity constraint, we administered a separate selection process for students interested in Computer Science. We used waitlist and referral pool strategies to manage enrollment outcomes within an ever-changing environment.

UC Santa Cruz admitted 7,987 sophomore and junior transfer students, including 7,072 California, 65 out of state and 850 international. The admission rate for all transfers was 67.6%. The total number of admits increased by 32.8% from last year, while the California admits increased by 50.2%. Admitted sophomore transfer applicants met the same course requirements and (where applicable) major preparation requirements as junior transfer students, but had fewer than 90 units for transfer.

Frosh Statements of Intent to Register (SIRs) total 4,238, including 3,364 California, 252 out of state and 622 international students. California SIRs from students identifying as African American reached 5.4%, increasing from 5.0% in fall 2017 and 4.1% in fall 2016; Hispanic/Latino reached 26.5%, slightly decreasing from 29.0% in fall 2017 and 26.7% in fall 2016. There were 458 students from high-need Local Control Funding Formula Augmented (LCFF+) schools who accepted our offer of admission, representing 13.6% of the California SIRs, compared to 11.8% last year.

Transfer SIRs total 2,410, including 2,224 California, 24 out of state and 162 international students. California SIRs from students identifying as African American reached 5.5%, slightly decreasing from 5.9% in fall 2017 and 5.0% in fall 2016; Hispanic/Latino reached 33.2%, increasing from 31.4% in fall 2017 and 31.0% in fall 2016. To make progress on the state mandate to enroll one new California transfer student for every two new California frosh, commonly referred to as 2:1, close collaboration among Admissions, EM, UE, CAFA, CEP, programs, disciplinary divisions, and Planning and Budget helped to maximize transfer admission offers to qualified transfer applicants. We expect to achieve 1.8:1 this year as a result of this comprehensive collaboration.

UC Office of the President is adjusting enrollment allocations in favor of campuses (such as Santa Cruz) that exceeded their transfer enrollment minima.

## **B. Financial Aid and Scholarships**

In 2017-18, the Division of Undergraduate Education's Financial Aid and Scholarships Office provided support to 13,117 undergraduate students (75% of undergraduate population) and 1,688 graduate students (90% of graduate population). The types of aid provided included grants, scholarships, fellowships, loans and/or work-study assistance.

### ***1. Award Program Updates***

2017-18 is the first year for the Year-Round-Pell, a revision of a short-lived 2009-2011 program. While the Year-Round-Pell program does not increase lifetime eligibility for the Pell award (18-quarters), it does allow students to use 4 quarters of Pell aid per year rather than the previous limit of 3 quarters per year. As a result of this program, 1,224 Pell students enrolled in the 2018 summer term received an average of \$1,394 each, with a maximum award amount of \$1,973, totaling \$1.7M.

2017-18 is the first year of a two-year program, the Transfer Transition Scholarship. With \$1.25M funding from a one-time UCOP Housing initiative, entering transfer students were eligible to apply for \$1,200 in scholarship aid, all disbursed in the fall term, supporting the start-up housing costs associated with the transition to UC Santa Cruz. There were 879 students who completed the application for the scholarship, with 422 of those students now having SIR'd for fall 2018.

2017-18 was the first year for the re-established University Loan Program, which had been dormant since 1999. This program is intended to provide partial replacement of the Federal Perkins Loan program, which was discontinued in June 2018. In fall 2017, eligible entering Frosh were offered \$1,200 each to cover the gap created by the absence of Perkins. There were 810 students who accepted University Loans during the 2017-18 year, with \$952,553 loans disbursed.

2017-18 was the third year of awards for the state Middle Class Scholarship program, and the first year in which the program was fully funded. This program is similar to the UC Blue & Gold Opportunity plan, providing up to 40% of tuition and fees for families with earnings under \$100,000 a year and 10% for families earning under \$165,000 and having no more than \$165,000 in assets (excluding primary residence). In 2017-18, the campus had 776 students receive an average award of \$2,891, with a total disbursed amount of \$2.24M.

2017-18 was the third year of eligibility for the CA Dream Loan. This loan program is being funded 50% by the state and 50% by university aid funds, and allows for a maximum annual award of \$4,000 to CA Dream Applicants. Due to funding constraints, there is actually less than \$2,000 available per eligible student annually, but not all students participate in the program. In 2017-18, a total of \$367,240 was loaned to 152 students, an average of \$2,416 per student.

## ***2. Current Financial Aid Funding Model and Data***

The UC Education Finance Model (EFM), which utilizes a 33% return-to-aid (RTA) from tuition and fees to support low income students, continues to be closely reviewed by the system-wide EFM committee. This UCOP committee meets quarterly regarding issues that affect the determination of the Cost-of-Attendance and the cross-campus allocation of aid funds.

When tuition and campus fees are combined with other elements of the student budget, such as housing/dining and health care, the average cost for a UC Santa Cruz CA resident student living on campus in 2018-19 will be \$36,396. Non-residents will have an additional \$28,992 tuition charges, bringing the non-resident on-campus budget to \$65,388. Under EFM, 2018-19 UC Santa Cruz undergraduates who qualify for need-based assistance must pay approximately the first \$9,840 of their need from loan and/or work resources. After subtracting the loan/work expectation and the family contribution (from FAFSA/DREAM App data), grant aid is offered to help pay the remainder of the total estimated total cost.

The Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan guarantees that students from families with incomes under \$80,000 will receive enough gift aid (from all sources) to pay UC tuition and fees. Virtually all students in this category already receive enough gift aid to meet this commitment. However, under the Plan some students who would not normally receive gift aid (due to high asset equity) receive gift aid.

In 2017-18 the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office administered \$290 million in financial assistance to about 75% of our undergraduates, as compared to \$278 million / 78% in 2016-17.

2017-18 Source of Aid	Percent of Undergraduates	Amount Received	Average Award
Gift Aid (all sources)	69.2%	\$ 209,430,548	\$ 17,209
UCSC Scholarships*	15.5%	\$ 9,220,613	\$ 3,389
Federal Pell Grants*	38.7%	\$ 32,565,791	\$ 4,791
Student/Parent Loans	46.6%	\$ 77,236,947	\$ 9,439
Federal Work-Study	8.5%	\$ 2,812,012	\$ 1,875
* Included in gift aid			

Of the UC Santa Cruz students receiving bachelor's degrees in 2016-17, 64% of those who originally enrolled as first-time frosh borrowed student loans while attending. Those students have an average debt of \$22,804. However, the debt can be as high as \$57,500 on an individual basis, which is the federal cumulative maximum amount an undergraduate student may borrow. Nationally, 68% of seniors graduated in 2015 had student loan debt, with an average of \$30,100 per borrower (<http://projectonstudentdebt.org/>). National Data for students graduating in 2017 is not yet available.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Education calculates cohort default rates for loans by campus. The national 3-Year average was 11.5% for 2014 (per Dept. of Ed.). The rate for the campus has been exceptionally low in recent years but did spike in 2010-2011, possibly due to the recession.

UCSC Year	3-Year Draft Default Rate	3-Year Official Default Rate
2011	5.6%	5.7%
2012	3.5%	3.4%
2013	3.1%	3.1%
2014	3.1%	3.1%
2015	3.6%	Not Yet Available

Campus undergraduate scholarship programs are administered by various campus departments as well as by the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office. Listed below are data for major scholarship programs administered by the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office:

<b>2017-18 Scholarship Program</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Amount Received</b>	<b>Average Award</b>
<b>Regents Scholarships</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>\$ 605,668</b>	<b>\$4,924</b>
<b>Campus Merit Scholarships</b>	<b>247</b>	<b>\$ 316,927</b>	<b>\$1,283</b>
<b>Pister Leadership Opportunity Awards</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$ 175,464</b>	<b>\$8,355</b>

The Office of the President's website<sup>3</sup> maintains numerous reports regarding student financial support.

### **Acknowledgements**

CAFA collaborated closely on key issues with the Undergraduate Education Division, and the committee's work was enhanced by data provided by Enrollment Management and the Office of Admissions.

Respectfully submitted;

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ucop.edu/student-affairs/data-and-reporting/reports-to-the-regents-on-student-financial-support/index.html>