

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Meeting

October 6, 2017

I. Welcome and Introductions*Henry Sanchez, BOARS Chair**Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Vice Chair*

Chair Sanchez welcomed new and returning members, and highlighted certain BOARS functions. Namely, that the Regents have delegated authority over admission to the faculty Senate, and the Senate has named BOARS as the agent that wields that authority. As such, BOARS sets the criteria for admission and seeks to establish metrics that predict student success while reflecting California's demographic profile and workforce projections. Returning issues are summarized below (see Item III).

Members and consultants then introduced themselves, and travel reimbursement procedures were reviewed.

II. Consent Calendar1. *Approval of BOARS October 6, 2017 Agenda*

Action: The agenda was approved as noticed.

III. Announcements*Henry Sanchez, BOARS Chair*1. Academic Council Meeting of September 27, 2017

Note: See Item IV below.

2. Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS)

ICAS is comprised of representatives from the Academic Senates of each of California's three higher education segments: the University of California, the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges (CCC). ICAS typically meets quarterly, and discusses issues of commonality to each segment: graduation rates, transfer smoothing, demographic representation, and overlapping budget concerns. Recently, transfer issues have dominated conversation.

3. Issues Overviewa. Area "d"

Last year, BOARS led a joint faculty-administration task force to revise the area "d" (science) entry requirement. After six months, the group recommended that UC change its requirement to 3 years of approved science classes, up from two required years and one recommended. This new policy would incorporate the Next

Generation Science Standards (NGSS) into high school science curricula. Additionally, the group recommended expanding the types of science courses that could be reviewed for articulation in this area to include earth sciences and computer sciences, for example. Approved online courses with a laboratory component could also satisfy the revised requirement. The proposal is currently out for systemwide review.

Discussion: Some members reported that their campus counterpart committees did not receive the proposal favorably. Specific concerns about negative, unintended consequences to underrepresented minority populations were raised, speculating that the overlap between URM students and under-resourced schools would preclude their ability to fulfill expanded science requirements. The utility of another science class vis-à-vis an additional fine arts or foreign language class might usefully be expounded. Others noted that too much focus on STEM admissions could have different unintended consequences on science-heavy campuses. Finally, some members voiced pedagogical concerns regarding the validity of online instruction, especially in science-based fields.

b. Augmented Review Next Steps

Last year, the Regents adopted a new policy on augmented review designed to address concerns raised by Berkeley that greater granulation was needed to admit an ideally curated class. The new policy allows admissions officers to request letters of recommendation from a subset of applicants deemed in need of additional information. Many opposed the policy on the grounds that 1) quality letters of recommendation are available differentially according to one's circumstances and 2) such letters offer no additional insight to applicants beyond the current holistic review procedures.

Action: BOARS will monitor implementation of the policy closely and will coordinate with the campus admissions directors to ensure uniformity.

c. UCOP Transfer Task Force

Note: See Item V below.

d. Compare Favorably

In response to negative press and an unfavorable state audit, last year BOARS was called upon to revisit its Compare Favorably policy, which provides guidance on how non-resident applicants should be evaluated for admission. BOARS issued a report indicating that non-residents do compare favorably to California resident undergraduate admits according to many metrics. Some external critics seem to have erected a false equivalency between non-resident enrollment and classroom space; this misunderstanding has so far proved intractable. A formal legislative response is pending.

e. SAT/Smarter Balanced/Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR)

Davis is piloting use of Smarter Balanced exams for testing and placement. The SAT essay is optional now, which has led some to question the efficacy of all writing tests. While additional data are anticipated, the use of International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement, and other exams has come into question. Frequent redesigns require frequent efficacy assessment by BOARS.

f. Eligibility Study

In accordance with the Master Plan for Higher Education, UC is required to admit the top 12.5% of eligible California high school graduates, and CSU is required to admit the top third. The state is conducting an eligibility study to determine if the segments are meeting their enrollment targets. UC's projected enrollment is expected to exceed 13% again.

g. Academic Verification

In response to an incident at the Irvine campus in which some offers of admission were rescinded due to inadequate due diligence by UC, a new joint UCOP-Senate task force has been formed. The group met for the first time last week, and is charged to find better means of conducting timely and accurate academic verification. President Napolitano has asked for a report by early-to-mid-November.

4. BOARS 17-18 Goals

Chair Sanchez itemized BOARS' goals for 2017-18 as continuing to:

- Monitor Compare Favorably assessment;
- Evaluate impacts of the 2:1 freshman to transfer enrollment policy;
- Advise on use of the Eligibility Study for the Public High School Class of 2015;
- Track implementation of UC Regents Augmented Review Policy;
- Evaluate changes to the SAT Essay;
- Evaluate validation studies of the Smarter Balanced Test;
- Review and evaluate standards of online courses for fulfillment of a-g requirements;
- Maintain and enhance diversity and accessibility in undergraduate admissions;
- Address new issues as they arise.

IV. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Shane White, Academic Council Chair

Robert May, Academic Council Vice Chair

Council Chair White thanked BOARS members for their service on this important Senate committee. The delegated authority over admissions makes the work of BOARS both important and public-facing. BOARS members should maximize their consultations with UCOP Student Affairs representatives.

After the recent state audits and negative press, the Office of the President is still trying to regain its footing. A review of UCOP programmatic operations is due in April, just before the May revise will be issued. It may be possible to move legacy projects and legislative mandates

to campus balance sheets, but many programs benefit from the value added by UCOP involvement. Nevertheless, the legislature has required UCOP to find funding for 1500 new California undergraduates from its imputed cash reserves and assumed administrative bloat (AB 97). The Academic Council issued guidelines to help UCOP identify funds: cuts must be made in consideration of academic reputation, leveraged funds, and contribution to the mission.

A UCOP proposal to cap spending on retiree health on a per capita basis at 3% annually was pulled after outcry from the Academic Senate. The proposal was made in response to changes to the Government Accounting Standards Bureau (GASB) requirements that require UC to move its retiree health liability from a footnote to the balance sheet. Because UC does not pre-fund retiree health, but rather contributes on a pay-as-you-go model, the liability is several billions of dollars. Concerns about credit rating and borrowing capacity motivated the initial UCOP proposal. A new task force will be formed in early 2018 to explore options for addressing the retiree health obligations.

Transfer issues continue to arise in the legislature. Achieving the prescribed 2:1 ratio of native freshman to transfer admits is being called for at each campus, not just for the system as a whole. Associate degrees for transfer have been indicted for not adequately preparing certain STEM transfers due to caps in science credits at some CCCs. A new task force is being formed to revisit these issues.

UC continues to struggle to find a funding model that works for all campuses. The 2008 recession and subsequent cuts in state funding undermined the progress made in equalizing campus support under rebenching. The ensuing race for revenues benefited the older campuses, and the Regents non-resident enrollment policy has codified these differentials.

The faculty salary gap will continue to grow as benefits are further reduced and cash compensation continues to lag the market. Equity is a separate, but no less important, concern. Arguing over how to allocate minimal amounts of money is unhelpful for morale, and the amounts are too small to make meaningful improvements in the gap – especially if halved to address separate issues. Framing this need as an issue of academic quality, with recruitment and retention, is necessary to advance the cause.

The entire UC community needs to be involved in discussions regarding free speech, campus climate, and safety. Federal actions impact these areas, too: DACA changes, travel restrictions, and fluctuations to federal funds, be they Pell grants, Medicare reimbursement practices, or NIH or NSF grants, all impact the UC community in many ways.

V. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Student Affairs

Robin Holmes-Sullivan, Vice President

Stephen Handel, Associate Vice President, Undergraduate Admissions

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Monica Lin, Director, Academic Preparation and Relations with Schools and Colleges

Tongshan Chang, Manager, Institutional Research and Academic Planning

1. Undergraduate Admissions Overview

Associate Vice President (AVP) Handel reviewed the student affairs organization chart and the responsibilities of his team members. A high priority for the Office of Student Affairs is to increase student diversity. The impacts of Prop 209 are still being felt, despite the institution of Comprehensive Review. A change to the application last year

invited applicants to answer personal insight questions, rather than to submit an open-ended personal essay. UC received 208,000 applications last year. Capital and facilities capacities are becoming real obstacles.

2. Verification Task Force Update

AVP Handel noted that academic credentials are automatically verified by admission officers, but extra-curricular outcomes may need spot-checked. Most high schools do not automatically transmit transcripts; only 13% of California high schools have e-transcripts. Further, not all campuses can receive e-transcripts. Some high schools are more cooperative than others, and local staffing issues could contribute to a lack of successful verification. Chair Sanchez is on the task force.

3. Transfer Task Force Update/UC Transfer Pathways

AVP Handel reported that the goal of the task force is to remediate transfer preparation policies. The fact that not all CCCs have equal academics is not recognized by many legislators, who focus on access to the exclusion of other considerations. The transfer pathways and major prerequisites (see 5 below) help many students, but UC has been criticized for not offering a transfer guarantee. Another obstacle is the prevalence of impacted majors and their popularity with many CCC students who seek to transfer.

4. Eligibility Study for the Public High School Class of 2015

AVP Handel reminded members that it has been nine years since the last eligibility study was conducted. Preliminary data indicate that UC is enrolling 13.9% of eligible California high school graduates, which suggests that no significant changes to UC admission policies are needed. Nonetheless, enrollment is a highly political issue, and some hope the study could be used to leverage additional resources from the state.

5. Statement of Practice on Changes to Major Prerequisites and Advanced Notification to California Community Colleges

AVP Handel summarized the proposed statement, which would set a time limit on the acceptability of certain CCC courses intended for transfer credit and grandfather current potential transfers who would be caught between curriculum changes.

Discussion: Members noted that some campuses are already deep into the transfer pool, and wondered if this would present another obstacle. Some speculated that more flexibility, not less, should be the goal; potential transfers lacking only one class should be encouraged, not dissuaded by bureaucracy. AVP Handel noted that UC retains catalogue rights, but no existing policy addresses this concern.

Action: Members will consult with their campus committees and report back in November for a vote on the proposal.

6. Richard Sand Public Records Request

Professor Sand has requested 1) documents regarding the training of readers and comprehensive review materials, and 2) potentially identifying data on applicants and outcomes. The former are already publicly available. Any campus responses should

copy campus counsel. Professor Sand has previously submitted a similar request, and his grant paid for the data processing. The goal of the research project is unknown.

VI. Campus Reports

Berkeley: 1) A revised freshman admission policy is being drafted to conform with the new augmented review policy. 2) Processes for faculty review of applications are being refined with the hope of soliciting feedback rather than determinative judgments. 3) The area “d” revision was not well-received. Many voiced concerns about unintended consequences to under-represented minority applicants. 4) The roll of athletics on campus continues to be a lightning rod topic. 5) New metrics for evaluating student progress and success are being sought. Adjustments to UCUES may be proposed, or tracking of mentoring or behavioral health utilization could complement more traditional measures, such as time to degree, frequency of academic probation, and graduation rate.

Davis: 1) A new tie-breaking procedure is being tested. It is more mathematically sophisticated. 2) A study to assess holistic review efficacy is being designed.

Irvine: 1) The campus is still dealing with the impacts of the verification debacle. 2) Services for DACA students are being evaluated and enhanced as needed. 3) The campus has nearly achieved the transfer ratio; the verification error impacted this, too.

Los Angeles: 1) Student outcome metrics are being revised. 2) Some professional schools want to propose new undergraduate majors. Campus politics are in play.

Merced: 1) Three schools are being administratively restructured into departments. This change should allow greater oversight and ensure more parallel practices. 2) Student success metrics are being revised. 3) Timely faculty review of admission materials is essential. 4) Over-enrolled and under-enrolled majors will be more closely managed. 5) A second enrollment workshop will be held to engage faculty on admission standards and decision-making processes.

Riverside: A local transfer task force has been convened. Significant outreach to local CCCs is being planned. Interim admissions are being encouraged, and major preparation communications are being reviewed. To achieve the ratio, drastic proposals are being considered, such as capping freshman admits or accepting transfers with incomplete transcripts. The potential negative impact on transfer student success worries many.

San Diego: 1) Diversity within majors is becoming a concern on campus. 2) More non-STEM students are needed, too. Yield and persistence rates would inform the discussion, but San Diego does not admit by major.

San Francisco: No report.

Santa Barbara: 1) SB met the transfer ratio this year. The lack of proximate CCCs suggests that SB’s outreach campaign was successful. 2) The number of impacted majors is increasing. No plans to admit by major have been considered. 3) Diversity goals for under-represented minorities and international students are being set. Some have raised concerns about the English proficiency of some international students, though.

Santa Cruz: 1) Major-sensitive admissions is being discussed, but it is still early. 2) Achieving the transfer ratio is proving difficult. Persistence and success vary by department. CCC advising has been criticized. 3) Early notice will be sent to athletes, musicians, and other specific admits.

VII. Executive Session

Note: Item not addressed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Henry Sanchez, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Henry Sanchez, BOARS Chair

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Vice Chair

Ignacio Navarette, Berkeley Alternate

Patrick Farrell, Davis

Laura O'Connor, Irvine

Anna Lau, Los Angeles

Christopher Viney, Merced (via videoconference)

Peter Sadler, Riverside

Joshua Kohn San Diego

Andrea Hasenstaub, San Francisco

Madeleine Sorapure, Santa Barbara

David Smith, Santa Cruz

Johnathan Li, Undergraduate Representative