

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA **ACADEMIC SENATE**
BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Teleconference Meeting

January 6, 2017

I. Consent Calendar

- Approval of BOARS January 6, 2017 agenda
- Approval of BOARS December 2, 2016 draft minutes

ACTION: BOARS approved the consent calendar.

II. Announcements

- *Henry Sanchez, BOARS Chair*

ICAS Meeting: Mike Kirst, President of the State Board of Education, joined the December 13 ICAS meeting to discuss the Smarter Balanced Assessment System and its potential role in college admissions. The Smarter Balanced assessments will test college and career readiness in English language arts and math between the 3rd and 11th grades in alignment with the Common Core State Standards. President Kirst told ICAS that the vertical alignment of the tests makes it important for the educational segments to increase communication and integrate their efforts. He encouraged the segments to consider the assessments as a supplement to or replacement for the SAT and ACT.

At its January meeting, the State Board of Education will continue its discussion of core concepts and practices to inform the development of a new K-12 Computer Science Framework for K-12 computer science education. The Board will be assembling an advisory committee to consider the proposed Framework.

A question arose recently about whether UC would consider computer-science programming courses to be a “foreign language” in fulfillment of the IGETC Language Other than English (LOTE) requirement. UC notes that such computer science courses usually fulfill the IGETC *Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning* requirement. They are not considered foreign languages, in large part, because of the historical and cultural components embedded in the LOTE requirement.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

- *Jim Chalfant, Academic Senate Chair*
- *Shane White, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Academic Council Resolutions: The Academic Council passed two resolutions at its December meeting. The first expresses support for a proposed 2.5% increase to in-state undergraduate tuition expected to be discussed at the January Regents meeting; the second urges the Regents to reject any policy establishing a fixed limit on nonresident enrollment and notes that a 20% cap on nonresident enrollment would cost the UC system \$56 million in the current year. Council also issued responses to amendments proposed to APM 015 and 016 and a proposed Presidential Policy on International Activities.

Disclosure of Sexual Orientation on Student Applications: A Senate division chair recently raised concerns about a proposal to collect and distribute to admitting units demographic information regarding sexual identity and expression gathered voluntarily on the application. Campuses may find such information helpful in highlighting their commitment to diversity and inclusiveness, but it is unclear that any potential benefits would offset concerns about the potential uncontrolled dissemination of the information. In 2012, BOARS [opined](#) that it would be better to solicit such information on SIR forms and forms completed by matriculated students.

UC Scout: The [UC Scout](#) program produces “a-g” approved online courses for high schools students who do not have access to a full range of college preparatory courses at their school. The program is seeking UC faculty content experts willing to provide feedback about the curriculum of UC Scout courses. A BOARS member suggested that UCOP sponsor a research effort to examine the academic outcomes of students admitted to UC campuses who took UC Scout (or other online) courses.

Long-Range Enrollment Planning: UCOP is working with campuses to develop long-range enrollment models. UCOP has asked campuses to identify their optimal total enrollment, an end-point for achieving it, and the capital, revenue, and faculty needed to support the enrollment and sustain the campus as a high-quality research institution. UCOP has asked campuses to engage local Senates and provide completed plans by June 30.

IV. Consultation with UCOP

- *Stephen Handel, Associate Vice President, Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director of Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Monica Lin, Associate Director of Admissions*

Transfer Application Update: January 3 was the extended deadline for potential transfer students to apply for fall 2017 admission. Preliminary data indicate that over 38,000 total students submitted applications for transfer admission, including 32,000 California Community College students, representing a 4.2% decrease overall compared to last year and a 3% decrease in applications from CCC students. Nearly 6,000 students submitted applications during the extension period. Whites, Chicano/Latinos, and Asians continue to be the three largest applicant groups by ethnicity. The number and proportion of African-American applicants remained about the same compared to last year.

Transfer Pathways Website and Articulation Update: In December, UC launched the [UC Transfer Pathways Guide](#), a new online resource for prospective UC transfers. The Guide allows California Community College students to access a list of UC-transferable courses available at their college that meet the specific course expectations for a given UC Transfer Pathway (from the first set of 10) and carry transfer credit to any of UC’s nine undergraduate campuses. A new website feature rolling out in February 2017 will allow student to determine where a partial pathway is available at a specific community college. Articulation data for the second set of 11 majors are expected to appear on the website by the end of February.

Next Steps for Area “d” Review: UCOP hopes to assemble a faculty work group for an initial late January meeting to consider the possibility of revising UC’s laboratory science (“d”) subject

requirement to align with the state's recently adopted Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for K-12 schools, which include interdisciplinary approaches to science learning. UC can support K-12 educator efforts to implement the NGSS and encourage a potential redesign of California's high school science curriculum.

ELC-Only/LCFF+ Update: Last year, UC initiated a pilot program targeting applicants eligible for an admissions guarantee through the ELC-only pathway and who graduated from a high school designated as Local Control Funding Formula Plus (LCFF+). UC flagged applicants meeting those criteria and encouraged campuses to give them an additional review to achieve a 4% target as a proportion of overall admits. The state provided UC with \$20 million in one-time funding to support additional academic support services and outreach to students from LCFF+ schools. The January Regents meeting will include a discussion about how campuses are investing the funds. The pilot may have contributed to last year's reduction in the number of ELC-only students in the referral pool. This year, UCOP will continue to encourage campuses to accommodate more of the students, but it has not yet set a specific target for fall 2017.

CSU Quantitative Reasoning Requirement: CSU campuses are contemplating several [recommendations](#) from a CSU Academic Senate Quantitative Reasoning Task Force. They emphasize the need for CSU to redefine Quantitative Reasoning in ways that better reflect national standards and produce clearer transfer articulation across the CA higher education segments. They suggest a fourth year of mathematics/quantitative reasoning as a CSU admissions requirement for entering freshmen, though not necessarily in the form of an additional mathematics ("c") course.

V. Campus Reports/Issues

BOARS members briefed the committee on issues being discussed by their local admissions committees and campuses.

UCSB is seeking guidance about the extent to which the campus may consider the English language skills of an applicant in comprehensive review. The admissions committee has noted instances in which international applicants appear to have strong language skills (and high TOEFL scores) but experience academic difficulties at UC due to a language deficiency. The committee wants to use interviews to screen for potential problems, but it has noted that none of the 14 comprehensive review criteria mentions English language proficiency specifically, and that the comprehensive review principles forbid denying admission to applicants based on a single criterion.

UCOP consultants noted that UC has an [English language proficiency requirement](#) stating that students seeking admission must demonstrate English language proficiency. The comprehensive review selection criteria assume the applicant is otherwise eligible. Berkeley has been piloting an interview process for international students to help gauge language skills.

The UCSD committee is training committee members on holistic review, considering the use of letters of recommendation in augmented review, and discussing the effect of potential new federal immigration policies on undocumented students.

The UCM admissions committee wants to increase communication and collaboration between itself, other Senate committees, and the administration. In February 2017, the committee is hosting an open meeting for faculty who have general questions and concerns about admissions.

Following a UCR Senate Town Hall meeting at which faculty aired concerns about shared governance, the UCR Provost announced that he will step down from his administrative position in June 2017. The Senate Executive Council is meeting with the Chancellor to discuss a way forward. UCR faculty have asked for more involvement in enrollment planning decisions.

BOARS members noted that some, but not all, campuses include an admissions committee representative on administrative committees tasked with enrollment planning and target setting. The chair of the admissions committee or designee may also meet with senior administrators responsible for enrollment management on a one-on-one basis.

The UCSC Impaction Committee has issued its recommendations for a process that will allow impacted departments to limit admission into impacted majors, beginning with the next admissions cycle. The admissions committee is also considering new transfer major preparation requirements for additional departments.

UCLA is defining the parameters of a study that will attempt to correlate student performance with specific admissions criteria. UCD is performing simulations to determine whether the predicted value of holistic review score is appropriate for use in tie breaking decisions.

VI. Annual Report on Undergraduate Admissions Requirements and Comprehensive Review

BOARS reviewed data tables for the *Annual Report on Admissions Requirements and Comprehensive Review* due to the Regents on January 31. The tables cover a variety of statistics on freshman and transfer application, admission, and SIR outcomes for fall 2016 admission, as well as first-year UC performance outcomes for students who entered UC in fall 2015. BOARS members also submitted updated summaries of their campus's comprehensive review process that appear each year in the report.

One of UC's goals last year was to meet a legislative mandate to enroll 5,000 new California resident undergraduates in fall 2016 in exchange for new funding. The data show that the enrollment push had an impact across the admissions cycle, as campuses admitted more students and went deeper into their applicant pools to meet the higher targets. Several significant changes in outcomes compared to fall 2015 follow from these efforts.

In addition, UCOP is working on a simulation to demonstrate the value comprehensive review adds to the admissions process, and the role it plays in expanding access to diverse populations, first generation students, low-income students, and students from disadvantaged high schools.

VII. Letters of Recommendations Pilot and Policy

BOARS discussed President Napolitano's request to the Senate to develop a systemwide policy for the use of letters of recommendation (LORs) in freshman admission.

Chair Sanchez called for a straw vote of BOARS members on the question of whether UC should

implement a systemwide policy *requiring* all UC applicants to submit LORs. There was no support for such a policy.

A second question is whether UC should implement a systemwide policy prohibiting campuses from requiring their entire applicant pool to submit LORs. The prohibition would not extend to an individual campus's use of LORs in augmented/supplemental review. Five campuses have an augmented/supplemental review process that allows them to ask for additional information, including LORs, from a limited number of students.

A BOARS member noted that such a policy is logical because UC is a single system of ten campuses. Another expressed support for allowing an individual campus to request LORs from all of its applicants after it receives the initial application materials, and another noted that BOARS should not decide policy before reviewing outcomes from Berkeley's 2017 study on the effect of LORs. Associate Vice President Handel noted that it would not be possible to include a mechanism on the systemwide UC application for an individual campus to request LORs from all of its specific applicants. It was noted that the Berkeley study would not show which students were discouraged from applying due to the LOR request, and that information provided in a LOR could be obtained another way; for example, through the UC application's eight new personal insight questions. It was noted that Berkeley sees LORs as the only way to obtain another person's view of an applicant. It has also felt constrained by the number of students who can be admitted through augmented review. A member suggested that the limit is Berkeley's self-imposed policy and not a systemwide constraint.

VIII. Compare Favorably Assessment and Policy

BOARS discussed President Napolitano's request that BOARS review its [Compare Favorably policy](#) for nonresident admission. BOARS is seeking the most reliable metrics for comparing residency groups and determining the extent to which campuses are meeting the standard.

BOARS member Professor Lavine proposed that UC develop a new measure of international students' GPAs based on their predicted average performance at UC. She noted that international students have slightly lower GPAs on average than California residents, but have higher first year GPAs at UC, and thus more than compare favorably in terms of UC performance. To account for this fact, UC should develop its own conversion mechanism for international GPAs based on the UC performance of admitted students.

It was noted that UC converts international high school GPAs using a tool called AACRAO EDGE. The idea for a new GPA conversion mechanism is intriguing, but it may be difficult to account for variances across multiple countries as well as in-country variances. In addition, the take rate of international students is very small, and performance at UC is only one measure of compare favorably, and not the only or central measure.

ACTION: Professor Lavine will share a more formal proposal with UCOP.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm

Minutes Prepared by Michael LaBriola, Principal Committee Analyst

Attest: Henry Sanchez