UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS
Minutes of Videoconference
January 3, 2025

In attendance: Deborah Swenson, Chair (UCD), Dave Volz, Vice Chair (UCR), Anant Sahai (UCB), Tony Albano (UCD), Jerry Lee (UCI Alternate), Lynn Vavreck (UCLA), Sundar Venkatadriagaram (UCR), Daniel Sievenpiper (UCSD), Michael Stryker (UCSF), Vanessa Woods (UCSB), George Bulman (UCSC), Jeremy Vargas (Undergraduate Student Representative), Bethany Padron (Graduate Student Representative), Han Mi Yoon-Wu (Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs (GUEA)), Chase Fischerhall (Director, A-G and Transfer Articulation Policy, GUEA), Angelica Moore (Director, Undergraduate Admission Policy and Communications, GUEA), Liz Terry (Manager of Admissions Analytics, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA), Tongshan Chang (Director, Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)), Matt Reed (Senior Institutional Research and Planning Analyst, IRAP), Ahmet Palazoglu (Vice Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst)

I. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Vice Chair, Academic Senate

The Regents approved the 2025-2026 budget which includes a 9.9% increase in non-resident tuition for new cohorts and an adjustment to the faculty salary scales. More information about the state's budget and funding for UC will be available later this month. Chair Cheung will provide the Regents with a review of Senate disciplinary processes in January. Academic Assembly unanimously approved the statement on UC quality undergraduate education prepared by the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP). Assembly had a lengthy debate about the proposed Area H ethnic studies requirement and the vote is postponed until the April meeting. There will be a special Assembly meeting on January 17th to consider the President's information security policy, when faculty salary adjustments are made, and the increased health plan premium.

In December, Academic Council approved the proposal from the Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ACSCOTI) to revise Senate Regulation (SR) 479 to allow students to satisfy the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) science requirements with two courses in different science disciplines. However, there are questions related to the administrative costs of the proposal to allow students to defer four courses until after transferring to UC and Council will ask ACSCOTI to study the issue further. The feedback from the systemwide review of the proposed SR 627, the policy on awarding degrees posthumously, raised a variety of concerns and Council will ask UCEP to reconsider the matter. Council learned that UCOP will add $200M to the mortgage origination program. The divisions will evaluate several memorials about extending Senate membership to adjunct and health sciences clinical faculty.

A joint Senate-administration workgroup on faculty salary range adjustment effective date will assess the implications of the adjustments being made in October instead of July. Over the winter break, the Academic Advisory Committee for the presidential search reviewed more than 100

applications and recommendations will be sent to the Regents Special Committee in mid-January. The searches for the UCR and UCSB chancellors are moving forward. Academic Planning Council's workgroup on the systemwide calendar is evaluating if it would be beneficial for the nine undergraduate campuses to have a common calendar. A Senate-administration workgroup is reviewing Academic Personnel Manual policies 015 and 016 which deal with the faculty code of conduct and policies related to expressive activities. A phase one report has been submitted to the provost and president and the workgroup concluded that no changes should be made to APM 015. The study of total remuneration and benefits is being handled by systemwide human resources at the Office of the President. There will be a workgroup with Senate faculty to help shape the work of the vendor conducting the study.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items and their priority were approved.
Action: The December 6, 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

III. BOARS Leadership Updates

Deborah Swenson, Chair and Dave Volz, Vice Chair

Chair Swenson reported that Academic Council did not endorse ACSCOTI's proposal to allow students to defer up to four Cal-GETC courses. A primary reason for this was concerns that UCR, UCSC, and UCSB already have challenges with offering enough seats in general education (GE) courses for students. Vice Chair Volz commented that Council may want to see a formal analysis of costs related to shifting the faculty workload to teaching more GE courses, administrative tracking of students, and advising underprepared students. California Community College representatives on the Cal-GETC Standards Review Committee have expressed concerns about not having enough faculty to teach additional physical and biological sciences courses due to the deferral of GE courses. The Cal-GETC Standards are being revised to allow up to two courses to be deferred and this needs to be approved by the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS).

IV. Consultation with Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs (GUEA)

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA; Chase Fischerhall, Director, A-G & Transfer Articulation, GUEA; & Angelica Moore, Director, Undergraduate Admission Policy & Communications, GUEA

Chair Swenson reminded the members of previous discussions about the UC Eligibility Areas and the three options under consideration. The committee had questions about how many courses are approved for both the Eligibility Areas and Cal-GETC and a fact sheet provided by Director Fischerhall addressed this. In addition, as a voting member of ICAS, UC does not have to approve any changes to Cal-GETC that are unacceptable or that make the requirements for transfer students weaker than those for first year students. Members were invited to share if the divisional committees have more input about the Eligibility Areas.

Discussion: The UCSC representative systematically looked at courses in ASSIST from a number of community colleges and found that there is overlap between the Eligibility Areas and Cal-GETC subject areas, so there is no obvious reason to object to adopting the latter. The UCSB representative appreciates that the ICAS bylaws ensure that UC will retain some control over the Cal-GETC requirements. However, while adopting Cal-GETC is the practical solution, it will mean

first year and transfer students have different math requirements which is problematic. Chair Swenson suggested that one potential argument that might justify a higher math requirement for first year students change majors.

Director Fischerhall noted that for a math course to be considered for a Cal-GETC area it must be approved for baseline UC transferability and there are minimal guidelines by subject area which are under UC's control. The director also pointed out that UC currently does not have guidance for data science, statistics, or other courses with significant quantitative content that are not in a traditional mathematics discipline or under a traditional title, and this could be something for BOARS to explore. BOARS could convene a workgroup to develop guidelines for what data science courses should contain for transferability and these guidelines could be added to the Senate regulations, the UC Eligibility Areas, and/or Cal-GETC. Chair Swenson mentioned that more details would have to be added to the Eligibility Areas definitions if BOARS decides to maintain that option and noted that each campus has discretion over how courses are treated for transferability.

According to Director Fischerhall, few courses in English and math do not meet the criteria for both Cal-GETC and the Eligibility Areas and the only notable discrepancy is arts, humanities, and social sciences courses. A member commented that UC is under pressure to standardize transfer requirements and strictly controlling GE requirements may be unnecessary. Vice Chair Volz reported that the California State University (CSU) system adopted a GE pattern identical to Cal-GETC but set C- as the minimum grade. Members are worried that students applying to CSU and UC might not realize until it is too late that they do not have the grades to quality for UC. Associate Vice Provost Yoon-Wu pointed out that a grade of C or better is required for Cal-GETC certification whereas CSU may accept less than a C for admission and eligibility. The UC Eligibility Areas will be discussed again in February and members should try to get their divisional committees to reach consensus about how to proceed.

V. Consultation with Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)
Tongshan Chang, Director, IRAP & Matt Reed, Senior Institutional Research & Planning Analyst, IRAP

Director Chang explained that it is impossible to separate the impact of UC's elimination of standardized tests for admission from the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis looks at applications to UC, admit rates, and performance in the first and second years at UC. The director did not find any significant differences in admission outcomes before versus after standardized tests were eliminated. Diversity has increased slightly while there has been a trend of a decreasing proportion of first generation student applicants. Overall, first and second year persistence rates of freshman admits has been consistent since 2018 but there is no evidence to show if the pandemic or elimination of standardized tests had an impact on this. There has been a decline in persistence rates for students with lower high school grade point averages (GPAs), especially below 3.0.

First and second year persistence rates by STEM status have remained flat since 2018. First year GPAs of freshman entrants declined slightly between the 2020 and 2021 cohorts, dropping by just 0.1 while second year GPAs remained mostly unchanged. Differences between actual and predicted GPA may be due to grade inflation during the pandemic when students could also opt for pass/no pass. The math and statistics GPAs for STEM and non-STEM students dropped by 0.2 for both groups while GPAS in other courses dropped by only 0.1.

Discussion: There is some frustration that the COVID-19 pandemic will be used as an excuse for not determining the true impact of eliminating standardized tests. The stated goal for eliminating standardized tests was the desire to increase diversity but the analysis suggests this has not been achieved. Elimination of the standardized tests may have given privileged students another advantage. It would be helpful to look at admission rates of students from lower income households. Director Chang agreed, but also indicated that many students did not report family income. That is a caveat. IRAP also reported enrollment data by Pell Grant status. Director Chang will include some analysis on enrollment by Pell status in the report. A member observed that persistence is likely to depend on family financial circumstances which could have changed significantly because of the pandemic. Future analyses might look at math preparation and analyses could be refined by looking at intersectionality. Members thanked Director Chang for the report.

VI. Preparation for February Consultation with Provost Newman and the State Board of Education President

In February BOARS will be joined by Provost Newman and State Board of Education (SBE) President Darling-Hammond. Executive Director Lin shared information with Chair Swenson about how Undergraduate Admissions has consulted with K-12 in the past, and Director Fischerhall will provide an updated list of these activities. There should be a distinction between what BOARS can do and what needs to be delegated to Undergraduate Admissions given that there are over a thousand high schools in California. One idea is an annual check-in with the SBE early in the academic year to share each other's interests and priorities.

Discussion: The February consultation with President Darling-Hammond will not necessarily focus on any specific topics. Instead, it will be an opportunity to discuss how to establish stronger engagement with K-12 representatives, and BOARS should be prepared to work towards the strengthening of opportunities for future interactions. Associate Vice Provost Yoon-Wu described examples of the SBE weighing in on policy decisions made by BOARS.

VII. Member Reports/Campus Updates

UCB: The committee discussed the UC Eligibility Areas proposal and there was consensus to accept the Cal-GETC definitions of the areas since this would simplify things for students. Another topic was how the NCAA system impacts admissions of athletes to UCB.

UCD: The committee discussed how modality is not taken into account when considering transfer credits and has noted that some transfer students have high numbers of credits from courses taken in summer.

UCSC: The committee continues to refine its predictive algorithm for student success. The representative, who will serve on the Council's artificial intelligence workgroup (AI) is planning to talk to the enrollment management associate vice chancellor about how AI might be impacting admissions.

UCLA: The enrollment management associate vice chancellor provided the committee with a presentation on holistic review which included a discussion about standardized tests. Several years ago, the committee established a process for reviewing the special talent and special admissions

units on campus. The committee receives reports at the end of every year and meets with the units in-person every other year. Engineering reported on changes to its admissions procedures following the pandemic and the elimination of standardized tests for admissions, and there are no problems with athletics. Most of the student athletes admitted by exception are from high schools where they could not fulfill requirements such as arts, music, or lab science.

UCSB: The committee is preparing for a presentation from the admissions director on holistic review and reader training.

UCSD: The committee has concerns about math preparedness and is attempting to determine what is leading to a lack of preparedness. The campus created two classes to help students in STEM majors who require substantial math preparation. In light of these concerns, a Senate-administration workgroup will analyze how each step of the holistic review process predicts performance later on.

UCR: The committee is looking at math placement exam scores and subsequent impact on GPAs.

UCI: The committee discussed the UC Eligibility Areas proposal and the systemwide calendar conversion workgroup.

VIII. New Business

There was no New Business.

IX. Executive Session

Executive Session was not held.

The videoconference adjourned at: 1:30 PM
Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst
Attest: Deborah Swenson, Chair