



BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS
Videoconference Minutes
May 2, 2025

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

I. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items and their priority were approved.

Action: The April 4, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

II. BOARS Leadership Updates

Deborah Swenson, Chair & David Volz, Vice Chair

The April 14th meeting of the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) included a discussion about proposed revisions to the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) Standards. The Academic Senate of the California State University (ASCSU) is opposed to the changes. Vice Chair Volz reported that the ASCSU representatives on the Cal-GETC Standards Review Committee appeared supportive of adding partial certification and planned to discuss this with their Senate leadership. ICAS will vote on the revised Cal-GETC Standards on May 22nd. Academic Assembly voted in favor of the revisions to Senate Bylaw (SB) 145 and approved the nomination of Susannah Scott to serve as vice chair-elect for 2025-2026. Assembly had a lengthy debate about the proposed A-G ethnic studies requirement which was ultimately voted down.

Academic Council considered the feedback from the systemwide review of the proposed revisions to SB 170 and the rescission of SB 192, and Council decided to reimagine the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE). BOARS and the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) will provide input on UCOPE's new charge. Vice Chair Volz reported that the Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues is working on consolidating UC's biochemistry, biology, cell biology, and molecular biology transfer pathways, which have the same four course expectations, into a single biological sciences pathway. The relevant discipline faculty across the system who were consulted support the consolidation as long as organic chemistry is completed

before community college students transfer into UC's biological sciences majors that require organic chemistry as a program requirement.

III. Consultation with Graduate, Undergraduate, & Equity Affairs (GUEA) & Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)

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; Liz Terry, Manager of Admissions Analytics, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA; & Matt Reed, Senior Institutional Research & Planning Analyst, IRAP

Senior Analyst Reed presented data on the relationship between academic preparation in selected A-G subject areas (history/social science, English, math, and science) and performance at UC. BOARS leadership suggested looking at distributions of grade point averages (GPA), so IRAP calculated the unweighted high school GPA in 10th and 11th grades by A-G subject area. The method of calculating the GPA is the same one used by Apply UC, and the unweighted GPA is being used because it is unclear to which A-G areas the eight honors points should be assigned. The scope of the analysis is new freshmen enrollees in fall 2016 through fall 2024 at California high schools that submitted courses for A-G approval and does not include the smaller number of students who started in winter or spring.

In 2020, the overall high school GPA dipped in all subject areas, more noticeably in math and science, and in recent years GPAs in English and history/social science are flat while math and science decreased slightly. With the unweighted GPA a fair number of students have a 4.0 GPA and another fairly large share has a 3.5 GPA or above, and the percentage of students with higher high school grades generally increased over time. The overall UC GPA increased starting in 2019 before any effects from the COVID-19 pandemic or the elimination of standardized test scores for admissions, but it has now decreased some. High school GPA is not closely associated with UC GPA but Area A (history/social science) and Area B (English) are slightly more predictive than Area C (math) and Area D (science).

A 4.0 GPA in any subject area is basically the same in terms of predicting overall UC GPA, but with high school GPAs closer to 3.0 there is a notable difference between math, science, English, and history in terms of predicting the UC GPA. The data shows that persistence rates increased as high school GPAs by A-G subject area increased. Senior Analyst Reed remarked that areas for additional research include analyzing the relationship between the number of courses taken in A-G subject areas and student success at UC and looking at the distribution of high school GPA in A-G subject areas versus the distribution of UC first year GPA.

Members have received an updated document on the UC Eligibility Areas which distills the quantitative analysis conducted by the UCOP's transfer articulation team as well as input from BOARS. The team started with the framework of the existing Eligibility Areas and strengthened them with the addition of information provided by BOARS informally over the years. The new briefing document includes details from the special regulations by subject area to make sure that important elements about baseline transferability are not lost. This text was then compared and contrasted qualitatively against each Cal-GETC subject area. The briefing summarizes the team's findings and explains where those recommendations originated. Chair Swenson remarked that the new

information in the briefing helps BOARS visualize the coursework that would be accepted in each Eligibility Area.

Director Fischerhall explained that the language added to the brief is intended for a few different audiences. The language should be understandable to the public, represent what faculty want to see in general education, and be useful for the analysts at UCOP who operate on behalf of the faculty to review and then provide approvals and denials of the coursework. Director Fischerhall hopes that BOARS members will share the new briefing with their campus committees and make a decision about the Eligibility Areas proposal soon.

Discussion: Members suggested different approaches to the analysis of high school and UC GPAs. Analyzing the relationships to responses to personal insight questions (PIQs) would need to be done at the campus level due to the different ways campuses conduct holistic review. The literature on personal statements suggests they do not predict first year UC GPA. The goal of PIQs is not necessarily to maximize GPA but to identify students with different experiences. Chair Swenson suggests studying whether it is possible to predict course patterns and records that are associated with academic challenges at UC. Since Calculus is required by many majors, is difficult for many students, and is typically taken immediately upon entry to UC, it could be beneficial to view Calculus rather than overall GPA records that combine coursework from many disciplines. The vice provosts and deans for undergraduate education have a workgroup looking at math preparation.

Director Fischerhall indicated that it is exceedingly rare for UCOP to approve a course in mathematics that does not approximate the level of what UC-Mathematics is looking for. The director will look at the proposed revisions to Area 2 of the Cal-GETC Standards to determine if anything in the new Eligibility Areas briefing should be changed. In the event that BOARS elects to adopt the recommendations in this proposal, UCOP's transfer articulation team would maintain the status quo review practice across all areas but courses for UC-Mathematics and Area 2 will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis rather than receive default approval for UC based on Cal-GETC review. The Eligibility Areas have not been reviewed in decades so one recommendation is for BOARS to evaluate them on a regular basis (recommendation is 5-7 years to align with curriculum review cycles) and ask Undergraduate Admissions for basic alignment analysis on the same cadence to see how well the process is working or if changes should be made. Since the Cal-GETC Standards might change in future years, the descriptions of the Eligibility Areas may need to be re-examined each year to identify any potential discrepancies. Members will share the briefing document with their campus committees.

IV. Guidelines for Consultation with K-12

The draft guidelines for consultation with the California K-12 system are related to the revision of SB 145 and the document includes examples of how consultation has occurred in the past. The intention is to have a public document which is explicit about the willingness of BOARS to collaborate with K-12, but the guidelines do not represent a policy change. Once approved, the guidelines will be publicly available on the BOARS Reports webpage.

Discussion: Members expressed agreement with the draft guidelines and provided feedback.

Action: A motion to endorse the guidelines was made and seconded, and the committee voted unanimously in favor of approving the document.

V. ICAS Mathematics Competencies Statement

BOARS has been asked by Chair Cheung to endorse the recent ICAS Mathematics Competencies Statement. Chair Swenson summarized highlights of the Statement.

Discussion: Members shared their impressions of the Mathematics Competencies Statement, noting that it took a significant amount of work to prepare. The statement makes the argument for why UC's math standards have been and will remain high.

Action: A motion to endorse the ICAS Mathematics Competencies Statement was made and seconded, and the committee voted in favor of the endorsement.

VI. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Steven W. Cheung, Chair & Ahmet Palazoglu, Vice Chair, Academic Senate

Chair Cheung explained how ICAS established a subcommittee to update the 2014 Mathematics Competencies Statement. The director of the California Learning Lab is interested in K-12 education, mathematics education in particular, and suggested to Chair Cheung that an endorsement by BOARS would be a meaningful way to engage with K-12. This is related to thinking about what a reenvisioned UCOPE could focus on and a question is if UC should be involved with teacher education in some capacity. Three senior manager searches are in the final phase with announcements coming this month about the successor to President Drake and the next UCSB and UCR chancellors. This afternoon there is a special Regents meeting to finalize and announce the appointment of the new president.

The State's budget situation is difficult and UCOP is looking ahead to the May budget revise. The chief financial officer (CFO) at UCOP has explained to Council plans related to pausing employer contributions to the UC Retirement Plan. The Senate communicated concerns to the CFO about tapping into the pension to address UC's budget shortfalls. There are questions about growth of undergraduate enrollment which will be discussed with the new president. The joint Senate-administrative workgroup on faculty discipline policies and procedures has submitted its report to the Regents and it will be discussed during the Board's May meeting.

Guidance was developed by the UCEP and the Coordinating Council on Graduate Affairs for how to provide academic support to students unable to complete their education on a UC campus. The Senate's task force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions, chaired by Vice Chair Palazoglu, has started meeting once a week and critical issues include how to support faculty whose grants are being cancelled and identifying ways to assist principal investigators and graduate student researchers who are out of work. Grants in some research areas that are being terminated may not be restored so faculty may need to pivot. Another issue is how faculty research will be evaluated and the principles for achievement relative to opportunity will come into play. Chair Cheung explained that the systemwide Senate is in close communication with not only the administration at UCOP but with the Regents regarding the deluge of federal actions.

VII. Community Input on Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

Chair Swenson has incorporated feedback from the committee into the draft memo regarding the report on the common calendar.

Discussion: Members considered points that should be emphasized in the memo. There is consensus that changing the calendar would be incredibly expensive and that faculty lack the bandwidth to undertake the work associated with the conversion. Another concern is that the research cited by the Workgroup does not support the assertion that there is a benefit to students.

Action: Chair Swenson will finalize and submit the memo.

VIII. Member Reports/Campus Updates

UCSB: The committee is looking at data on admissions including international student numbers. There is significant interest in thinking about the holistic read score and there is a question about the use of high school GPA.

UCLA: This committee received an update on recruitment and the director of admissions provided helpful insight on the common calendar report. Another discussion was related to upcoming changes to athletics because of changes to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The committee believes that the athletics admissions process works well for this campus.

UCD: The committee is considering pausing augmented review since it is used infrequently.

UCM: The committee has not met recently but it has been approving new majors and reviewing data for the next recruitment cycle.

UCSD: The committee is trying to review the campus' admissions process, and a separate committee is exploring what is happening with math.

UCR: The campus held recruitment days for incoming freshmen and transfer students. The representative has been looking at the math advisory exam and working with Institutional Research to obtain data from 2015 to 2024 to see how many students are calculus-ready versus placing below calculus or above calculus one. The data shows a marked decline in the number of students who are calculus-ready both in the College of Engineering as well as in the physical and natural sciences.

UCSC: The committee is looking at yields and determining whether the campus needs to admit students from the wait list. A meeting with the executive vice chancellor focused on the process for handling over-enrolled majors and how admissions targets are set. The goal is to create efficiency and make sure that faculty have some involvement in the decision-making process.

UCB: A standardized testing workgroup is finalizing a faculty survey and has compiled literature outlining the pros and cons of the tests. The committee had questions about the campus's comprehensive review report which seems to be utilized for compliance rather than for any

decision-making. There is a workgroup on athletics and special admissions for athletes in light of changes at the NCAA. Another workgroup is contemplating pathways for students who want to change majors and there is also a workgroup studying direct admission into majors.

UCI: The committee's last meeting included an update on admissions and a discussion about the academic calendar report. The committee is also considering admission by major, specifically the majors that meet their targets and those that do not.

IX. New Business/Executive Session

No new business was introduced.

The videoconference adjourned at: 2:08 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Deborah Swenson, Chair