

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

ACADEMIC SENATE

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Teleconference Meeting

January 4, 2013

I. Consent Calendar

- Approval of the December 7, 2012 BOARS Minutes

ACTION: BOARS approved the consent calendar.

II. Announcements

- *George Johnson, BOARS Chair*

Academic Council

In December, the Academic Council discussed responses from Senate divisions and systemwide committees to the [review](#) of the Budget Rebenching Committee report, but was unable to reach consensus and will continue discussion in January. Some divisions fear that rebenching will disadvantage them, while others say they are disadvantaged by the current system. One disputed issue is how to treat medical schools and students, and one campus has requested that UCSF's exemption from rebenching be extended to all health sciences students on the general campuses. Another issue is how to define baseline resident enrollment levels for each campus; there was concern that as new state money is distributed to campuses to equalize per student funding, the campuses that chose to over-enroll in the past may benefit relative to those that followed agreed upon enrollment targets.

Enrollment Management

UCOP will be sending the campuses long-range enrollment management plan templates. BOARS members and faculty on other local Senate committees are encouraged to participate in vetting their campus plan.

Alternative Transferable Quantitative Course Pathways

Chair Johnson noted that in December, BOARS had discussed the barrier Intermediate Algebra represents for some community college students who want to transfer into the University. BOARS also had discussed alternative pathways in math that are being designed for prospective transfer students who do not plan to major in a STEM field and a possible modification to UC policy that would ease the requirement that transferrable quantitative courses must include an Intermediate Algebra prerequisite. BOARS did not support the proposal. It is concerned about weakening the math requirement and holding community college transfers to a lower standard than freshman applicants.

It was suggested that BOARS opine more formally on the issue and, after consulting with experts, prepare a statement of expectations about mathematics preparation in the context of the new Common Core State Standards. Such a statement might indicate that BOARS wants to hold transfers to an equivalent level of preparation as entering freshmen but also recognizes the value of integrated mathematics sequences. BOARS members agreed that such sequences could be

approved for transfer if the prerequisite math content is equivalent to Intermediate Algebra. It was suggested that the statement be developed by the end of June.

III. Consultation with UCOP

- *Judy Sakaki, Vice President Student Affairs*
- *Michael Trevino, Director of Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Shawn Brick, Associate Director of Admissions*
- *Monica Lin, Associate Director of Admissions*

2013 Application Data

UCOP will publish final fall 2013 application data in mid-January. Preliminary data indicate that UC received a record number of applications for fall 2013—representing increases of 8.6% overall; 6% in California freshman applicants; 15% in domestic nonresident applicants; and 34% in international applicants. There was also a slight decline in the number of transfer applications from California residents. The number of African-American resident applications increased slightly; and the number and proportion of Chicano/Latino applications and First Generation College applications also increased. The proportion of low income applicants and applicants from low API high school was similar compared to last year.

UCOP continues the search for an Associate Vice President for undergraduate admissions.

Discussion: It was noted that the current statewide admissions index provided a guarantee to approximately 10.6% of California public high school graduates and 11.6% of all California high school graduates who applied to UC for fall 2012. The total guarantee pool was 13.6% when combined with the ELC 9%. BOARS will be reviewing options for adjusting the statewide index to more closely meet the 9% target and the 10.5% overall guarantee pool target.

Campus requirements and procedures for assessing non-native English speakers

In December, BOARS discussed how campuses use scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to assess the English proficiency of non-native English-speaking applicants. UC's minimum TOEFL score requirement of 80 represents the 49th percentile of all test takers. This minimum is relatively low compared to other universities. It was noted that a score of 100 represents the 80th percentile. A study by UCOP conducted a decade ago on a small group of international students showed that the TOEFL score is a significant factor in student success as measured by first-year GPA, cumulative GPA, and four-year graduation status.

Discussion: BOARS members expressed interest in an updated TOEFL study that models the current effect of the TOEFL score on college-level outcomes, and investigates and compares the relative power of the four TOEFL sub-scores in predicting outcomes. It was also noted that international students have different kinds of language problems (grammar, syntax, and reading comprehension, particularly with technical prose) which may not all be effectively addressed in campus writing centers, and that it is unclear that simply raising the minimum TOEFL score will make a difference in the classroom. It was noted that some campuses encourage admitted foreign students to take an English language placement exam or participate in pre-enrollment summer programs.

IV. Campus Updates on “Compare Favorably” Analysis

Issue: Campuses have been asked to submit reports to BOARS by January 24 discussing the extent to which they are meeting BOARS’ “compare favorably” standard with regard to nonresident admission. There are no prescribed measures regarding how campuses must perform the assessment, although it may be useful to look at traditional academic indicators and/or to describe how campuses use comprehensive review to meet the standard.

Discussion: BOARS members noted that it would be difficult to assess the “compare favorably” standard by comparing the holistic scores of admitted domestic and international applicants because different factors influence the scores for each group – for example, international applications do not carry data on all of the local context factors used to evaluate domestic applicants. It was agreed that, unfortunately, no perfect methodology or score exists that is comparable across cultures and educational systems.

V. Request to Campus Directors for Action on New Transfer Admissions Policy

A memo has been sent to each campus admissions director requesting that they work with departments and majors to review their existing lower-division requirements for transfer students, and if appropriate to create or define UC Transfer Curricula. The memo requests a report to BOARS by June 30. The UCOP Office of Admissions also will be working with the admissions directors to discuss the process going forward.

VI. IGETC for STEM Majors

BOARS reviewed two possible modifications of [Senate Regulation 478](#) intended to codify a new IGETC sequence for STEM majors. The modifications also eliminate the detailed descriptions of each IGETC subject area in SR 478 in an effort to make the language parallel to language in [SR 424](#) defining the “a-g” pattern required of freshman applicants. Because IGETC for STEM would be a variant of IGETC, it would conform to the provision in the state legislation, SB 1440, mandating that the new Transfer AA/AS degrees from California Community Colleges include IGETC or CSU Breadth.

Discussion: It was suggested that the new language should state explicitly that some majors will not consider completion of IGETC as representing sufficient subject matter preparation for transfer. The language should not suggest that transfer students will always have a choice of fulfilling their lower division Breadth and GE requirement through IGETC, when some schools may enforce separate requirements or even recommend against IGETC.

VII. Planning for Meeting in Sacramento

- *With Steve Juarez, Director, State Governmental Relations*

A portion of the February 1 BOARS meeting in Sacramento will include a joint session with legislators and administrative staff. The proposed topics include freshman admissions, transfer admissions, the Master Plan, accountability, and the effect of nonresident admission on UC’s commitment to California residents.

Discussion: It was noted that “accountability” may relate to outcome-based education, improved time-to-degree, diversity, faculty workload and other goals UC would be willing to meet to ensure continued State funding. At the Sacramento meeting, BOARS should emphasize its commitment to the Master Plan and UC’s ongoing commitment to and successes in increasing diversity and access. It should be noted that UC has increased nonresident admission to address budget cuts, and that the revenue from nonresident tuition helps enhance access for California residents and maintain quality. It was noted that the UC campuses are magnets for the the “best and brightest” from around world, many of whom stay in California after graduation. Many UC campuses have also increased their California resident admissions. It was noted that as all campuses become more competitive, not all applicants can be admitted to their first choice campus. High school and community college students should recognize that all campuses have much to offer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.
Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola
Attest: George Johnson