

**BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)  
ANNUAL REPORT 2018-19**

**TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) met eleven times in Academic Year 2018-19 to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in [Senate Bylaw 145](#): to advise the President and Senate agencies on the admission of undergraduate students and the criteria for undergraduate status. The major activities of BOARS and the issues it addressed this year are outlined briefly, as follows:

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE REGENTS ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS AND COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW**

BOARS' annual [Report to the Regents on Undergraduate Admissions Requirements and Comprehensive Review](#) discusses freshman and transfer application, admission, and enrollee outcomes under comprehensive review for the years 2013–2018; first-year UC performance outcomes for students who entered UC in fall 2017; efforts by BOARS to enhance the transfer admission path and to ensure that admitted nonresidents compare favorably to California residents; diversity outcomes; a summary of each UC campus's comprehensive review process; and challenges associated with the future of the referral guarantee. The report notes BOARS' concern that annually increasing enrollment expectations from the state, absent funding for additional academic facilities, could have deleterious educational outcomes in the long run.

- ***Policy on Augmented Review in Undergraduate Admissions***

[Regents Policy 2110](#) outlines guidelines and criteria for an additional review of select applicants who fall in the margins for admission, but whose initial application yields an incomplete picture of their qualifications or presents extraordinary circumstances that invite further comment. It outlines three types of supplemental information a campus may request from up to 15% of applicants in a given admissions review cycle: 1) a questionnaire inviting the candidate to elaborate on special talents, accomplishments, extraordinary circumstances, and their school/home environment; 2) 7<sup>th</sup> semester grades; and 3) up to two letters of recommendation. The policy states that campuses may solicit letters only from applicants selected for augmented review, applicants considered for admission by exception, or applicants given a special review in other specific situations.

BOARS received reports from the campuses that utilized augmented review, and encouraged those campuses to look closely at the information requested and perhaps find other ways of deriving that information, such as an additional or revised Personal Insight questions or another dimension of comprehensive review.

**NONRESIDENT ADMISSION**

- ***Annual Systemwide Compare Favorably Report***

BOARS issued its [annual "Compare Favorably" report](#) on 2018 nonresident admissions. The annual report summarizes systemwide and campus outcomes for the policy, focusing on comparisons of high school GPA, SAT score, and first-year UC GPA and persistence for residents, domestic nonresidents, and international nonresidents for each campus. The report notes that based

on those limited measures, the University is largely meeting the standard on a systemwide basis, although outcomes vary on specific campuses. The report emphasizes that GPA and test scores are narrow, imperfect measures for the assessment, given campuses' use of 14 comprehensive review factors.

#### **AREA “D” WORK GROUP AND PROPOSED REVISIONS TO SENATE REGULATION 424**

In January 2017, BOARS charged a UC faculty work group with proposing revisions to the area “d” (laboratory science) requirement for freshman admission ([Senate Regulation 424.A.3.d](#)), to better align UC’s expectations for high school science preparation with the expectations for high school science curricula based on California’s adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards for K-12, which include four science categories: Physical Sciences; Life Sciences; Earth and Space Sciences; and Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science.

The systemwide review conducted in 2018 revealed some areas of concern relating to access, equity, and under-represented minorities. Additional analysis, however, illustrated that only a handful of schools would not be able to meet the increased standards, but given UC’s multiple routes of admission, BOARS asserted that these obstacles should not impede the revision. Nonetheless, increased scrutiny from internal and external stakeholders focusing on diversity and equity concerns combined to delay advancing the change to Regents. BOARS will continue to advocate to improved science requirements through the area ‘d’ revisions next year. As well, the Public Policy Institute of California is undertaking a study commissioned by UCOP to examine the impact of new science requirements on college eligibility.

#### **TRANSFER ADMISSIONS**

BOARS helped lead the University’s response to a range of issues and concerns about community college transfer.

- ***Transfer Guarantee***

In spring of 2018, President Napolitano and CCC Chancellor Ortiz Oakley signed an MOU obligating UC to expand its transfer pathways and accept more CCC transfer students. Many in the Academic Senate raised significant objections to the lack of shared governance in the process that led to the MOU. Nevertheless, BOARS and the Senate agreed to work to realize the goals of the MOU. A joint administration-Senate task force was formed, and BOARS evaluated their recommendations in the fall. After extensive discussion focusing on academic preparation and student success, enrollment management, admissions staff workloads, and impacts to specific majors, BOARS recommended an expansion of the Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program. The Academic Council endorsed the recommendation, which then received systemwide support through normal review procedures. External communications are being developed by the administration, and BOARS will closely monitor implementation in the coming year.

#### **JOINT MEETINGS WITH THE UC ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS**

The Admissions Directors and Associate Vice Chancellors for Admissions and Enrollment Management joined BOARS by videoconference in November 2018 to discuss the “Compare Favorably” policy implementation, augmented review implementation, and transfer issues. BOARS and the campus Admissions Directors also held their annual half-day joint meeting in June to discuss outcomes from the 2018 admissions cycle; issues and challenges associated with

nonresident admission; continuing transfer admissions issues, including achieving the 2:1 freshman-to-transfer enrollment ratio, transfer access to impacted majors, and the role of the UC Transfer Pathways in comprehensive review; implementation of the Augmented Review policy; strategies for expanding student diversity in the context of increasing selectivity; new tools for transfer students, such as UC ASSIST; and the work of the Standardized Testing Task Force.

### **STANDARDIZED TESTING TASK FORCE**

Last spring, the Academic Council agreed to empanel a task force of subject matter experts to evaluate UC's use of standardized tests in the admission process. At the time, President Napolitano lauded the effort, and subsequent high-profile public scandals underlined the timeliness and goals of the effort. Former BOARS chair Henry Sánchez is chairing the task force, and BOARS is represented by Chair Comeaux and UCSF Representative Hasenstaub. The task force is charged with evaluating undergraduate admissions only, and will support any recommendations with compelling data. Task Force Chair Sánchez met with BOARS in May to brief the committee on work to date. BOARS will continue to receive reports as the Task Force continues their work, and BOARS will have the opportunity to assess any recommendations before they are sent for systemwide review.

### **ADMISSION AUDITS**

BOARS, like the rest of the University, was taken aback by the admission scandal that broke nationwide during 2019. Multiple UC campuses were implicated by federal officials, and both the Office of the President and the state announced audits of UC admission procedures. BOARS encouraged campuses to increase transparency in Admission by Exception (ABE) processes, and standardize practices as much as possible. A first round of recommendations from the Office of the President was met with some skepticism since workloads do not seem to have been considered. The state audit is pending, but BOARS will carefully scrutinize their findings and recommendations when available.

### **OTHER BUSINESS AND BRIEFINGS**

**Campus Reports:** BOARS set aside a portion of each meeting for updates from faculty representatives about issues being discussed on their admissions committees and campuses. These briefings touched on a wide range of topics, including local holistic review processes; best practices for increasing diversity and enhancing outreach to underrepresented populations; individual campus strategies for meeting the 2:1 freshman:transfer enrollment ratio; strategies for addressing impaction in majors and boosting enrollment in under-enrolled majors; the effects of the ongoing enrollment surge on campus infrastructure and faculty workload; local analyses of student success factors; the effect of potential new federal immigration policies on undocumented students; strategies to ensure strong English language skills in international admits; the role of athletics admissions committees and admission-by-exception; application fee usage policies; admissions staff turnover; and over-enrollment in STEM fields.

**Senate Leadership Briefings:** The Academic Council chair and vice chair attended a portion of each BOARS meeting to brief the committee on business from Council and Regents meetings, and other systemwide issues of particular interest to BOARS or of general interest to the faculty. These briefings included the status of negotiations with the state around the budget and enrollment

funding; proposed legislation affecting the University; the Regents’ nonresident enrollment policy; and the impacts of the State and internal audits of UCOP and UC admissions.

**Office of Student Affairs:** The Office of Student Affairs provided regular briefings throughout the admissions cycle on application, admissions, and SIR outcomes for freshman and transfer students from different demographic groups and residency categories. They also provided valuable information to BOARS about transfer policies, initiatives, and legislation; admissions messaging; feedback from counselor conferences; high school and online “a-g” course accreditation issues; the Next Generation Science Standards; recruitment programs targeting the ELC cohort and other specific populations; the status of UC campus implementation of the UC Transfer Pathways; and other topics.

**OTHER REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

In addition to the above, BOARS issued recommendations and opinions on other topics of interest, including changes to Senate Regulation 636.E, Senate Bylaw 336, Open Access for Theses and Dissertations, and revised Sexual Violence/Sexual Harassment policies.

**BOARS REPRESENTATION**

BOARS Chair Comeaux represented the committee at meetings of the Academic Council, the Assembly of the Academic Senate, the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS), the ICAS IGETC Standards Subcommittee, and participated on the Transfer Advising Innovations & Communications subcommittee of the Transfer Task Force, as well as on the Transfer Task Force itself. Chair Comeaux and UCSF Representative Hasenstaub represented BOARS on the Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF), and UCSB Representative Sorapure served as liaison to the University Committee on Preparatory Education.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

BOARS collaborated closely with UCOP and benefited from regular consultations with Vice President for Student Affairs Robin Holmes-Sullivan, Director of Undergraduate Admissions Han Mi Yoon-Wu, and Director of Academic Preparation and Relations with Schools and Colleges Monica Lin. BOARS also received valuable support and advice from Institutional Research Coordinator Tongshan Chang and Institutional Research and Planning Analyst Matt Reed, who provided the committee with critical analyses and data related to the Report to the Regents and the Compare Favorably analyses.

Respectfully submitted,

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