

Board of Admission and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

October 2, 2020

I. Chair's Announcements

- Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

1. Welcome and Introductions2. Role of BOARS

Chair Comeaux referred members to the welcome packet circulated previously, which includes the Committee Member handbook. BOARS is charged to advise the Academic Council, and through them, the president and the Regents on admission-related issues. Many of BOARS decisions are high profile and highly political due to the high interest of external stakeholders. Members should evaluate issues from a systemwide perspective.

3. Role of Consultants

The Office of the President consultants are subject-matter experts who provide information to bridge gaps in member knowledge. They often bring policy proposals and compliance issues. They provide BOARS with data to inform decisions.

4. 20-21 Priorities

- Comprehensive Review Criteria: There are now essentially 13 criteria, with the de facto removal of standardized test scores. Each campus uses or is moving toward using holistic review. BOARS seeks to better understand the use of non-cognitive factors in admission decisions, particularly those indicated by Augmented Review, and hopes to receive data this fall.
- Test Usage: Alameda County Superior court has issued an injunction temporarily halting use of test scores in admission, placement, and scholarship decisions, and UC has appealed on a limited basis. The UC appeal was granted, and may use test scores on a limited basis. The back-and-forth is confusing and court deadlines overlap with admission deadlines. See also I.5 below.
- Compare Favorably Metrics: Absent test scores, UC can report on high school GPA, persistence, and first semester grades/academic probation. What other metrics could be informative?
- Area D: The science course options have been expanded, and the subject area requirement renamed. The provost objected to increasing the minimum number of required courses, though, citing equity and access concerns. BOARS should consider how to increase outreach and advocacy to high schools around the state to close the access/equity gap.

5. Feasibility Study

Following the Regents adoption of then President Napolitano's recommendations regarding standardized testing, a working group has been established to explore the feasibility of constructing a new standardized test for fall 2025 admissions that would meet UC admission

needs in a more equitable manner. Chair Comeaux and Council Vice Chair Horwitz are co-chairs of the working group, and will report their findings to a steering committee led by Provost Brown and Academic Council Chair Gauvain.

6. Other Committee Interactions

BOARS has representation on the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS, Chair Comeaux), the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE, Vice Chair Sorapure), and on the ICAS IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) Standards Subcommittee (UCLA Representative Knowlton). This year, the ASSIST Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), which is part of the intersegmental ASSIST program's governance structure, has requested BOARS representation.

Action: UCLA Representative Knowlton will also represent BOARS on the ASSIST PAC.

II. **Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership**

- Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair
- Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

Chair Gauvain reported to the committee on several items of interest:

- **Budget:** Contingency planning is underway considering how to deal with expected cuts in state funding. Deliberations are confidential for now, but President Drake is closely involved.
- **Sister Committees:** BOARS should feel free to work with sister committees, especially the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) and UCOPE.
- **COVID Impacts:** Many expect transfer admission and enrollment patterns to change due to the pandemic.
Members asked if the academic impacts of remote learning were being studied. Chair Gauvain noted that UCEP is monitoring academic integrity, involvement, and access. The Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI) is also monitoring impacts. Early indications suggest disappointment with remote learning last spring. Many worry about downstream effects and the scaffolding of classes.
- **Regents Student Basic Needs Committee:** The group has issued their penultimate report. It indicates what the Regents find important, beyond academics.
- **Climate Crisis:** The San Diego division is the leader in concerted climate action. UC is compelled to take the lead and provide a broad-thinking, multi-disciplinary approach. Some have suggested a new systemwide standing committee to lead Senate efforts. This a more comprehensive approach than was suggested previously.
- **Testing:** The Senate has taken no official position on the litigation or the UCOP response. BOARS should consider academic preparation needs broadly in their deliberations.

III. **Systemwide Review Items**

➤ Select Lead Reviewers

1. Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report

Action: Chair Comeaux and Vice Chair Sorapure will serve as lead reviewers.

2. Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 544 (Cross-Campus Enrollments)

Action: BOARS elected not to opine on this item.

3. Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 630 (Senior Residency Requirement)

Action: UCSC Representative Smith will serve as lead reviewer.

IV. Consultation with the Office of the President – Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs

- Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions
 - Monica Lin, Director, A-G and Transfer Policy Analysis & Coordination
 - Tongshan Chang, Director, IRAP
1. UC Information Center Overview
Director Chang provided a walk-through of online resources.
 2. UC Admission Overview
Executive Director Yoon-Wu and Director Lin provided a walk-through of the freshman and transfer admission policies and resources. Members asked if students without regular digital access could request extensions to the application submission deadline for extra counseling. ED Yoon-Wu said that no provisions were in place, but UCOP has been monitoring the rate of applications started as well as environmental events (e.g., power outages, wildfires) for extenuating circumstances that would warrant an extension. Members also asked if enrollment melt was worse during COVID. ED Yoon-Wu noted that some continuing non-residents and seniors notified the university of their intent to take the fall term off. Data are not yet available for new first-year and transfer enrollments.
 3. Standardized Testing Next Steps
 - a. Statewide Eligibility Index
BOARS is considering whether changes to GPA thresholds will yield enough students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Expanded Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) may yield more students from disadvantaged backgrounds. Members should consult their campus committees, and review the Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) Report, for additional ideas.
 - b. Litigation Update
 - Rhonda Goldstein, UC Legal
Note: Item occurred in executive session; no notes were taken.
 - c. Policy Review
Note: Item not addressed.
 4. A-G Requirements
 - a. Area C: Mathematics
Director Lin presented a proposal: to expand course offerings beyond the traditional sequence of math courses that may lead students into the “race to calculus”, to be more inclusive of new and innovative advanced math courses (e.g., data science), and to address equity issues. It is hoped that more students will take 4 years of high school math with expanded offerings. Students intending to major in STEM in college can still pursue a math pathway that includes pre-calculus or calculus, and geometry (or an equivalent integrated mathematics course, such as Mathematics II) remains a requirement to fulfill area C.
Action: BOARS adopted the proposal unanimously.

b. Area A: History/Social Sciences

- Dan Ma, Student Activist

This proposal would allow Ethnic Studies to count for area A. Some members noted that history courses are already moving in this direction, and that the state is developing a model ethnic studies curriculum. Some members suggested that certain courses could receive an “ethnic studies” designation, but not add a new requirement. Others suggested ethnic studies courses could be used to help fulfill area G. Members asked if there was urgency to adopt the proposal. While there is social momentum for this type of action, the proposed requirement would not take effect for several years. Members asked which communities have the most access to this type of course. Director Lin noted that there are also legislative considerations, such as AB 331 (Medina). BOARS supports the proposal in concept, and looks forward to the next iteration with updated options presented.

5. UC-CCC Articulation Agreements

Note: This item was addressed off-line.

Action: BOARS approved the proposed extensions of flexibility due to COVID. Specifically, UC will honor established articulation agreements and rely on local CCCs to do their best in fulfilling the terms of the articulation as described in the approved Course Outlines of Record. Temporarily revising CCC course offerings (e.g., science courses with in-person labs that transition to online lectures with virtual labs or some other lab substitute) is acceptable and will not pose an issue for UC as long as the intended student learning outcomes are met.

6. State Audit Next Steps

a. Non-Resident Metrics

Note: Item not addressed.

b. Non-Cognitive Factors and Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

Note: Item not addressed.

c. Reader Training

ED Yoon-Wu noted that the state recommended documentation of campus selection processes when choosing between students with similar holistic scores. UCOP requested the underlying documents the auditor reviewed which should help clarify further state assumptions and expectations.

Members noted that training and norming require vigilance. Members also noted that there was a conflation of athletic admissions fraud (Varsity Blues) and admission by exception. UCOP is not involved in athletic operations, but it is a high profile and highly political issue.

d. ELC

ED Yoon-Wu again noted that UCOP is attempting to replicate the auditor’s findings on non-participating ELC schools to determine A-G completion rates of those schools. Outreach programs will also be reviewed.

7. COVID Next Steps

a. GPA Impacts of Pass/No Pass

UC considers GPAs from the 10-11 grades only, under normal circumstances. Admissions simulated impact of Pass grading on GPAs. Members noted that some high-achieving students could be disadvantaged by the loss of weighted courses, and that students on a trajectory of improvement could also be harmed. Capped and unweighted differentials were examined.

V. Campus Updates

1. Proposal to Study the Causal Impact of Being Admitted to UC Campuses

Note: Item not addressed.

Action: Members are encouraged to discuss this topic off-line.

2. General Updates

Graduate Student: High school athletes applying to UC often need additional mentoring. NCAA deadlines and UC deadlines do not match. ED Yoon-Wu noted that the system has a process for late applications.

VI. Further Discussion

Chair Comeaux suggests the creation of a selection process working group.

Action: UCSC Representative Smith, Graduate Student Representative Galan, Vice Chair Sorapure, and UCSB Representative Gordon will coordinate with ED Yoon-Wu and Director Chang to identify data needs and consider additional options.

Adjournment 4:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Madeleine Sorapure, BOARS Vice Chair

Sarah McMains, UCB Alternate

Deborah Swenson, UCD

Sergio Gago Masague, UCI

Barbara Knowlton, UCLA

Abbas Ghassemi, UCM

Sheldon Tan, UCR

Rebecca Plant, UCSD

Michael Stryker, UCSF

Mike Gordon, UCSB

David Smith, UCSC

Carlos Galan, Graduate Student Representative