

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Meeting

December 1, 2017

I. Consent Calendar

1. Approval of BOARS December 1, 2017 Agenda
2. Approval of BOARS November 3, 2017 Minutes

Action: The consent calendar was approved as amended.

II. Chair's Announcements

Henry Sánchez, BOARS Chair

1. Academic Council Meeting of November 29, 2017

- Proposed revisions to area 'd'

The responses from the systemwide review were circulated prior to the meeting, and not all respondents seem to have read the entire proposal. Several themes emerged: fairness regarding access to under-represented minorities and students at under-resourced schools; concerns about the name and nomenclature; ensuring quality standards for online courses; and access to quality mentoring and counseling at high schools (this concern is not unique to the area 'd' discussion). Chair Sánchez will answer the concerns at the January Academic Council meeting, relying on data prepared by UCOP's Office of Student Affairs. If the Council is satisfied, the proposal will be sent to the Academic Assembly for ratification in February.

Discussion: Members asked for a further breakdown of the students who may not have access to a third mandatory area 'd' course: what high schools are they at, and what is their demographic make-up? Chair Sánchez encouraged members to view the proposal holistically, noting that CSU and CCC would also benefit from better prepared high school students, and UC would benefit further in terms of student success and time to degree. Chair Sánchez will present the proposal to CSU and CCC faculty representatives at next week's Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) meeting. Other members noted that the extended courses proposal approved last month could also help mitigate access concerns.

Some members wondered if the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), which served as partial impetus for the proposed revisions, were too prescriptive regarding approvable courses. Chair Sánchez noted that there are four rubrics available in NGSS to meet the requirements. It was suggested that the proposal introduction be revised to offer readers the four routes, rather than focusing on one route.

A few members asked if non-STEM students would benefit more from an additional fine arts elective or foreign language class, rather than a science class that could damage their GPA. Chair Sánchez noted that the a-g requirements total only 45 units, while a high school diploma requires 120 units. He added that the state is reluctant to mandate improved standards, despite their indictments of UC and CSU regarding inadequate work-force preparation

2. Update on Other Meetings

Chair Sánchez will attend the ICAS meeting next week in Sacramento. The verification task force report was submitted to the Regents by Provost Brown at their November meeting; verification will be used only for evaluative purposes going forward.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Shane White, Academic Council Chair

Robert May, Academic Council Vice Chair

1. Audit Ramifications

Following the state audit of UCOP operations, 34 business practices were identified for improvement. Chief Operating Officer Rachael Nava is in charge of implementing the changes, and some have already taken effect, such as the new travel regulations. An analysis of the 160+ academic programs partially administered by UCOP is due to the state in April – just before the May revise of the state budget. Explaining the benefit of central funding, especially for legacy programs, could be challenging. UCOP is working to identify \$15M from its internal budget to help fund 1500 California undergraduates, as required by AB 97. The Academic Council has articulated academic-oriented and value-added principals to help guide the cuts.

2. Audit Interference Ramifications

During the state audit, the campuses were asked to evaluate UCOP services on a variety of facets. Members of the President's Executive Office (PEO) interfered with this survey process. As a result, some members of the PEO have resigned, and an external investigation was commissioned to review the interference and issue recommendations. That report is now public, and it is unflattering to the PEO. The Regents met in closed session to discuss the report and next steps. They issued a formal statement admonishing President Napolitano for her involvement and handling of the situation, and President Napolitano issued a public apology.

Nonetheless, many of the ramifications of this debacle are still to be felt. Cuts in state funds may result. New governance guidelines for university personnel with dual Presidential-Regental reporting lines are being developed. The Senate has asked for 1) the appointment of a senior academic advisor to the President, 2) the re-elevation of the Provost's office and academic affairs back to the number two office in the University, in accordance with bylaws, and 3) the appointment of the Senate chair to President's cabinet.

3. Federal Tax Changes

The office of federal government relations is working hard to protect research and graduate students in the new tax regulations being developed in Washington, D.C.

4. Free Speech

An administration task force to advise on how to balance free speech considerations, climate and safety issues, and cost has been formed.

IV. Review Items

1. Statement on Practice on Changes to Major Prerequisites and Advanced Notification to California Community Colleges

Members reported concerns from campus colleagues about inaccurate or vague language: departments approve curricular changes, not education policy committees (whose role is to opine on proposals). Others noted that language should be clearer regarding revising requirements and implementing new ones, and that these courses should be completed before enrolling, not applying.

Action: AVP Handel will draft revised language for electronic approval.

2. STEM Transfer Issues

At least one campus has called for re-articulation for all CCC physics classes, but the issue to be resolved by this process is less clear. It was speculated that there are different physics classes at the CCC level, some of which include calculus and some of which do not. All UC physics courses now include calculus. How to identify and promulgate any changes will likely fall to UCOP.

V. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Student Affairs

Stephen Handel, Associate Vice President, Undergraduate Admission

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

1. Augmented Review Next Steps

Members suggested changing the metrics to include the response rate of those identified for augmented review. Members also suggested surveying reviewers for the type and frequency of augmented review materials solicited, and asking them how letters of recommendation are evaluated. Members also suggested adding a generic time line to determine if early requests were more likely to receive (quality) responses.

Action: The Office of Student Affairs will revise the request and recirculate it for electronic approval.

2. Annual Report on Undergraduate Admissions and Comprehensive Review

BOARS and Student Affairs will undertake the 2017 report in January. Members should be mindful of some preliminary considerations: 1) Should a deadline extension to March or April be requested? 2) What structural changes are needed in the report? Many sections seem redundant. Members suggested shortening the longitudinal charts to 5 years. Other potential edits will be discussed at the January meeting.

3. Pearson Test of English

In the spring, BOARS and Student Affairs were solicited to endorse/adopt the Pearson Test of English (PTE) for admission to UC, similar to the TOEFL and SAT English. However, no independent validity study has been completed, and admission colleagues at schools using PTE report only incidental use of the test to date.

Action: BOARS declined to endorse PTE. Analyst Feer and Director Yoon-Wu will draft a memo for electronic approval.

4. 2018 Application Deadline

The admission deadline passed last night at midnight, save for those impacted by the recent North Bay fires who have until December 15. Preliminary data show an increase in both freshman and transfer applications. Full data will be reported in January.

5. Verification Task Force

AVP Handel reported that per the Regents decision, academic verification will only be used for quality control, not for enrollment management. Final revisions to the task force recommendations are being made before promulgation. Some stakeholder groups may call for this to be a policy, but at present it is only guidance.

6. Transfer Task Force

Provost Brown and immediate past Academic Council Chair Chalfant and co-chairs of this task force. The task force has three areas to discuss: 1) associate degree for transfer to UC, 2) UC advising to transfer students, and 3) augmenting the Transfer Pathways already articulated, perhaps with guarantees.

VI. Campus Reports

Berkeley: The campus committee is engaging in its annual exercise of reaffirming campus policies. This is largely *pro forma*.

Davis: No report this month.

Irvine: 1) Sample admission packets are being scored to help evaluate readers. 2) Next week's meeting will focus on outcomes of the verification task force and its recommendations.

Los Angeles: Recent headlines involving UCLA basketball players have led to a reconsideration of admission by exception (ABE) policies writ large, but especially regarding athletics.

Discussion: Members suggested bringing coaches to Senate committees to better educate them on admission processes and requirements. Others suggested expanded use of conditional admission, especially since athletes "commit" to a school long before the formal admission deadline; this would allow greater remediation via summer enrichment or targeted tutelage. Other concerns involve how athletics impacts student diversity on many UC campuses and how many resources are given to athletes versus non-athletes.

Merced: Student success metrics are evaluated by WASC during accreditation. The Merced metrics will be shared as a reference.

Riverside: The campus is learning how to implement augmented review.

San Diego: The campus committee is concerned that non-STEM applicants are suffering during the admission review process. Non-STEM applicants are speculated to have lower SAT scores and to take fewer AP classes. How to ascertain data or reader bias remains unclear.

San Francisco: The UCSF committee supports the area 'd' revision.

Santa Barbara: 1) Outreach to "local" CCCs was a major focus this year. Assessing successes and failures is in progress. 2) Sample application packets are being scored for comparative evaluation of readers and metrics.

Santa Cruz: Santa Cruz is also engaged in an annual policy review.

Graduate Student: Tax concerns stemming from the current draft of federal tax policy changes are dominating conversations.

Undergraduate Student: Regents are increasingly meeting with student and student life groups.

VII. Executive Session

Note: other than action items, no minutes are taken during executive session.

Note: The January meeting will be via videoconference only; logistics to follow.

Meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Henry Sánchez, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Henry Sánchez, BOARS Chair

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Vice Chair

Frank Worrell, UCB

Patrick Farrell, UCD
Laura O'Connor, UCI
Anna Lau, UCLA
Chris Viney, UCM (via Zoom)
Peter Sadler, UCR
Josh Kohn, UCSD
Andrea Hasenstaub, UCSF
Madeleine Sorapure, UCSB
David Smith, UCSC
Kevin Heller, Graduate Student Representative
Johnathan Li, Undergraduate Student Representative