

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Meeting**May 1, 2020****I. Consent Calendar**1. Approval of BOARS May 1, 2020 Agenda**Action:** The agenda was approved as noticed.**II. Announcements***Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair*1. Academic Council of April 15, 2020

The Academic Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) with the additional recommendation submitted by the Academic Council to repeat the analysis in 5 years. President Napolitano is reviewing the report, and will submit her recommendations to the Board of Regents ahead of their meeting on May 21. The Regents item will consist of the presentations moderated by the provost. One presentation will focus on admissions, one on research, and one on the STTF report. Members are encouraged to watch the live stream or archived video, including the public comments.

2. Update on Other Meetings

The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Standards Committee next meets on May 18.

The Transfer Task Force is recessed until the fall.

The Climate Change Interim Task Force continues its work of developing a charge for the full group to follow. The University Committee on Committees (UCOC) will populate the full group to ensure representative participation.

The University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) is discussing options to fulfill the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) given the cancellation of the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) this spring.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership*Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair*1. COVID-19 Impacts

- Chair Bhavnani extended her thanks to the faculty for being flexible during this time of crisis.
- The UC medical centers are struggling to keep up with demand while suffering financially due to loss of non-COVID business. How to balance safety and revenue is a continuing focus of discussion.

- The state budget is in flux. Although the budget is due June 15 per statute, the fact that the tax deadline has been delayed to July 15 makes projections difficult. A final budget is not expected until August or September. UCOP has working groups developing contingency plans.
- A faculty survey regarding the teaching experience under COVID has been deployed.
- The UC Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES) will add COVID-specific questions this year.

2. Other Updates

- The climate working group is developing a charge for the next group.
- The increasing faculty diversity task force is currently investigating retention.
- The deferred maintenance bill for the university is multiple billions of dollars.
- The undergraduate online degree task force will be reporting soon.
- New guidelines for Sexual Violence/Sexual Harassment violations will be issued soon for review.
- The Academic Council supported a memo from the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) calling for greater graduate student support.
- A new chancellor for UC Merced will be announced at the May Regents meeting.
- The presidential search continues behind closed doors.

IV. **Campus Updates**

Berkeley: 1) The campus hit its admissions target and remains highly selective. 2) A slight increase in underrepresented group enrollment is expected and is attributed to regional recruiter activity and tweaks to the holistic review process. 3) Some applicants have requested a deferral of up to a year due to COVID-19.

Discussion: The deferral policy usually applies only under medical, military, or religious reasons. COVID-19 could be added. A cautious approach is suggested so as not to “plant seeds.” Course sequences could also be impacted if students defer.

Davis: 1) The campus has canceled housing guarantees for this fall, which could impact “melt.” 2) Guidance for reviewing incomplete applications is sought.

Irvine: 1) Enrollment projections are on target. 2) The 1-5 scale for rating applications under comprehensive review will return as the 1-3 scale was found not to be granular enough.

Los Angeles: The campus has met its enrollment targets, but worries about non-resident melt, though in-state yield may off-set any non-resident losses. This approach is not revenue neutral, though. The loss of outreach and recruitment events due to COVID-19 could negatively impact enrollment by students from underrepresented groups.

Merced: 1) The campus looks forward to working with a new chancellor. 2) Enrollment projections are on target, but as other campuses access their wait-lists, the campus may lose some students. 3) The campus uses identical standards to evaluation non-resident applicants. 4) AWPE alternatives are being sought for impacted students.

Riverside: 1) Enrollment projections are still on target. Non-resident goals may be in jeopardy, though. 2) A subcommittee has been formed to consider alternatives/modifications to the current admission formula.

San Diego: Admissions projections are still on track for the fall. Uncertainty regarding physical safety, though, is a concern.

San Francisco: The campus continues not to admit undergraduate students.

Santa Barbara: 1) Receipt of Statements of Intent to Register (SIRs) is lagging. The wait-list may be activated soon. The campus anticipates larger than normal non-resident “melt”. 2) Audit Phase II Management Corrective Actions (MCAs) are being reviewed and enacted. 3) Some majors are pushing back on Pass/No Pass credit for major prep courses for transfer students. 4) The potential loss of standardized tests in admissions is challenging for campuses using a formula-based process. 5) The potential loss of standardized tests in admissions also raises concerns about grade inflation in the future.

Santa Cruz: 1) Additional guidance for Admission by Exception may be required for applicants with missing courses. 2) Many campus activities and functions are being postponed due to COVID-19.

Graduate Student: 1) Please note the memo from UC Student Association for consideration under Item V below. 2) Students and applicants from low socio-economic backgrounds require assistance filling out financial forms and the like. They are more likely not to have involved school counselors, but are often solicited to submit additional paperwork.

Undergraduate Student: 1) The need for outreach to Californians from underrepresented groups has only grown in the current crisis. 2) Greater access to CalGrants is being sought.

V. Student Support Issues

Carlos Galan, Graduate Student Representative

Alexis Zaragoza, Undergraduate Student Representative

The need to address resource and access disparities for applicants and students from underrepresented groups or low socio-economic status backgrounds continues and is worsening under the current crisis. Careful and targeted messaging is necessary to communicate how to successfully apply to UC. Clarifications regarding the personal insight questions (PIQs) and where COVID-19 impacts should be expressed is needed, and if word count limitations can be overlooked, applicants need to know. Summer “melt” is often exacerbated by invasive and rude requests to verify low income status. Enhanced reader training is needed, but that and possible additional questions must be balanced with reader fatigue and time.

VI. Application Evaluation at UC Riverside

Emily Engelschall, Admission Director, UCR

The campus uses a formula-based admissions protocol, based on an Academic Index Score which factors in standardized test scores, high school GPA, and limited demographic factors. PIQs are reviewed to supplement bubble applications. Some majors do require a higher index score than others, and the campus has messaging in place. The campus has the best diversity statistics in the system using this protocol, but partly that success is due to the applicant pool. It is unclear how changing away from the formula will impact diversity, although some campuses have shown progress by using targeted recruitment and employing dedicated counselors. A task force has been formed to explore alternatives and options.

The campus admission office uses 7 readers for fresh man applicants, 7 for transfer applicants, and 3 for non-resident applicants. However, recent increases in the numbers of applications mean all readers are on freshman reviews through January.

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

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director of Undergraduate Admissions

Monica Lin, Director, Academic Preparation and Relations with Schools and Colleges

Tongshan Chang, Manager, Institutional Research and Academic Planning

1. Non-resident admission guidelines

Legal and other reporting requirements necessitate quantified minimum standards. Only California has A-G course standards, which makes comparing high school GPAs difficult. Both short-term and long-term planning is encouraged, and transparency is needed due to the heightened scrutiny given to this issue both in Sacramento and by the Regents.

Action: Members will collect their campus's non-resident admission practices, and best practices will be explored in a future meeting.

2. High School GPAs

Grading practices have always been differential, which is part of the rationale underlying Comprehensive Review. The calculation of Pass/No Pass grades for impacted high school students must be done so as not to disadvantage anyone.

3. California High School Accreditation

Following the WASC presentation to BOARS, it was proposed that the committee endorse WASC as the preferred accreditor for public and private high schools in California and ask schools that chose another accreditor to explain their decision. Members asked what other accreditors were contenders, and in addition to the other regional accreditors, New England and Middle States, Cognia is a third alternative. Chair Comeaux suggested that competitors be allowed to present to the committee before a final decision is made. Learning about possible differences in procedures, metrics, and improvement strategies should prove insightful.

Action: Director Lin will contact other interested accreditors to present to BOARS.

4. Changes to the Statewide Index absent ACT Writing

Removal of the ACT Writing test as a factor in calculating the statewide eligibility index had the surprising effect of causing fewer students to be eligible for university admission, although the number is still above the 12.5% required by the Master Plan.

Action: Alternate eligibility factors will be explored and presented to BOARS at a future meeting.

VIII. Executive Session

Note: Other than action items, no notes were taken.

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Madeleine Sorapure, BOARS Vice Chair

Jabari Mahiri, UCB

Deborah Swenson, UCD

Susan Cohen Cory, UCI

Barbara Knowlton, UCLA

Matthew Hibbing, UCM

Sheldon Tan, UCR

Skip Pomeroy, UCSD

Andrea Hasenstaub, UCSF

Mike Gordon, UCSB

Juan Poblete, UCSC

Carlos Galan, Graduate Student Representative

Alexis Zaragoza, Undergraduate Student Representative