

Board of Admission and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

June 7, 2019

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Chair Comeaux welcomed the campus admission directors to the annual joint in-person meeting.

II. Consultation with Admission Directors**1. Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) Update**

Chair Comeaux reviewed the history of the STTF and its goals. STTF is charged to approach the topic from a neutral perspective and to be data driven in its assessment of how well standardized tests show: 1) UC readiness, 2) predictive validity for student success within holistic review, 3) whether UC usage of standardized tests can be improved, changed, or eliminated, 4) impacts to diversity, and 5) impacts to eligibility for native frosh. So far, the STTF has met twice by videoconference and twice in-person. External guests have included presenters from The College Board, The Educational Testing Service, and the Smarter Balanced Advisory Committee, as well as faculty experts. Additional guests and presenters will be invited to the fall meetings, and an interim report is being prepared by STTF Chair Sánchez. BOARS will review the final report and recommendations, and develop new policy as appropriate.

The STTF is discussing several tangled topics: how “norm-referenced” testing compares to curriculum-based testing; how extra-curricular factors impact test performance; what lessons can be learned from test-optional and no-test universities; what proxies exist and what they’re strengths and weaknesses are; how international students can best be evaluated; how students are impacted by standardized tests and the testing culture; and more.

Specific concerns have been raised regarding the use and utility of writing tests and how they are graded. Members wonder if these tests are the best way to communicate to students the importance of writing in all fields of study.

2. Transfer Guarantee, TAGs, and Transfer Pathways

The Admission Directors raised questions about potential enrollment spikes and how the new transfer guarantee could best be communicated to CCC students and counselors. Chair Comeaux noted that market research, including focus groups of both, had been conducted and that the UCOP communications team was developing targeted communications. He further clarified that the goal of the new program is better ensure academic preparation for transfer students, and that is why the 3.5 GPA is a target, not a requirement; a better GPA will hold applicants in better stead and help them be better prepared for academic success once at UC. The Admission Directors asked if university leadership had approved the proposal. Council Vice Chair Bhavnani answered yes, both President Napolitano and CCC Chancellor Ortiz Oakley have both approved the proposal.

3. 2-year Advance Notice Requirement for Changes to Major Preparation

Director Yoon-Wu provided an overview the issues in question and presented revised draft language for consideration. Several points for clarification were raised, and BOARS will continue this discussion in July.

4. Compare Favorably Outcomes

Some minor technical issues regarding algorithm misalignment were reported, but the data are still clear for the system.

5. Admissions Audit

The Regents discussed the admission audit at their meeting of May 15. An interim report has been released by the systemwide office of Ethics, Compliance and Audit Services (ECAS), and respondents have until next Tuesday to submit feedback. Many are concerned that the proposed requirements for documenting each campus's decision for each of the 100,000s of applicants will prove impossible. It is unclear to many what documentation would satisfy external critics, especially where nuanced decisions are made. Workload concerns lead to resource demands, too. Some wonder if the university is engaged in a performative exercise, rather than a meaningful one. Verification of application statements remains a subject of debate.

III. **Consultation with the University Committee on Education Policy (UCEP)**

- Anne Zanzucchi, UCEP Chair

1. Campus Processes for Updating Transfer Criteria

UCEP has been investigating how each campus updates its transfer criteria, where authority lies, and what protocols govern the processes. Some campuses give authority to department faculty and other give authority to administrators. Sometimes a catalogue review will lead to changes outside of a formal process. Enrollment requirements, such as 2:1, often conflict with academic preparation goals and can extend time to degree.

IV. **Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership**

- Robert May, Academic Council Chair
- Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Vice Chair

The proposed affiliation between UCSF and Dignity Health has been withdrawn for now. In many ways, this outcome is a victory for Shared Governance. It has also shown many aspects of potential affiliations that should fall under closer scrutiny going forward.

The state budget is still pending. The deadline is next week, and conference committees are working. UC is lobbying for additional one-time funds.

Faculty salary actions have not been finalized yet. The Senate is advocating for a 5% increase to the scales, but technical issues may delay implementation until the fall. Retroactive pay is not possible, so the final percentage amount may change while the total dollar amount is expected to remain the same.

The Regents approved an increase to non-resident tuition, with 1/3 being reserved for return-to-aid for non-residents. UC continues to struggle with unfunded enrollment and is working with the state to develop a comprehensive tuition plan.

The Council approve the open access principles developed by UCOLASC. Elsevier access continues, as do negotiations, although contingency plans are already in place. So far, UC has received praise and positive press for its principled stance.

A proposal from Irvine for an online business degree was not endorsed, and has been returned to the campus for further development. Nevertheless, the debate raised several interesting topics the Senate will want to address, such as "What is the undergraduate experience?"

All Senate faculty are encouraged to vote on the memorial to call on UC to divest fossil fuel companies from the endowment.

A proposal to change the Medicare plans UC offers to retirees is the subject of much debate. The Senate is emphasizing impacts on retirees, not on the university. Timing and communications issues must also be addressed.

V. **Chair's Announcements**

- Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Note: Item not addressed.

VI. Campus Updates

Berkeley: 1) Ways to streamline the evaluation of transfer applications are being sought. 2) A recruitment and yield analysis is underway.

Davis: The campus has been discussing the admission audit, noting differences in how the issue is being presented by systemwide and campus officials. Some worry that the “tail is wagging the dog.”

Irvine: 1) The campus met its diversity targets this year, partly due to the use of targeted scholarships. 2) Most on campus are supportive of the new transfer guarantee because it builds so strongly on current efforts. 3) The campus will revisit the administration’s unilateral decision to convert to a three point evaluation scale for applicants. The goals of the change remain unclear, as does the impact.

Los Angeles: Most campus discussion has continued to focus on the admission audit and its outcomes. Many are hopeful that a better ABE process will result, one that includes greater faculty involvement.

Merced: The campus has been discussing how to better prepare alternates and new members.

Riverside: 1) Freshman applicants may be referred to a wait list this year. 2) Non-resident applications are up. 3) The campus looks forward to receiving additional guidance regarding application verification processes.

San Diego: Absent.

San Francisco: Absent during this item.

Santa Barbara: 1) A new athletics admission review committee is being formed. Team rosters will be reviewed for student success outcomes, dating back to 2010. 2) Many on campus are skeptical of The College Board’s new environment dashboard. 3) The number of international students submitting SIRs is spiking. 4) Changes to the math major’s transfer requirements have finally been agreed upon.

Santa Cruz: 1) The campus continues to make progress on its Compare Favorably measures. 2) The campus exceeded its ABE cap, which has been attributed to odd course patterns taken by international students. Best practices are sought. 3) The campus is investigating whether adjustments to the holistic review metrics are needed.

VII. Executive Session

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

Action: Chair Comeaux will draft a memo calling for elimination of the SAT and/or ACT writing test as a requirement for admission.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Melissa Famulari, BOARS Vice Chair

Jill Berrick, UCB

Deborah Swenson, UCD

Laura O’Connor, UCI

Anna Lau, UCLA Alternate

Christopher Viney, UCM Alternate via Zoom

David Volz, UCR

Andrea Hasenstaub, UCSF via Zoom

Madeleine Sorapure, UCSB

David Smith, UCSC