



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS Videoconference Minutes June 6, 2025

In attendance: Deborah Swenson, Chair (UCD), Dave Volz, Vice Chair (UCR), Anant Sahai (UCB), Leah Hibel (UCD Alternate), Andrea De Vizcaya Ruiz (UCI Alternate), Lynn Vavrek (UCLA), Sundar Venkatadriagaram (UCR), Daniel Sievenpiper (UCSD), Michael Stryker (UCSF), Vanessa Woods (UCSB), George Bulman (UCSC), Bethany Padron (Graduate Student Representative), Han Mi Yoon-Wu (Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate, Undergraduate & Equity Affairs (GUEA)), Chase Fischerhall (Director, A-G & Transfer Articulation Policy, GUEA), Liz Terry (Manager, Admissions Analytics, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA), Angelica Moore (Director, Undergraduate Admissions, Policy & Communications, GUEA), Tongshan Chang (Director, Institutional Research & Academic Planning (IRAP)), Matt Reed (Senior Institutional Research & Planning Analyst, IRAP), Steven W. Cheung (Chair, Academic Senate), & Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst)

I. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership Steven W. Cheung, Chair, Academic Senate

Chair Cheung thanked members for their work this academic year. UCSB will change the search firm looking for the next chancellor and Provost Marshall will serve as the interim chancellor. The new vice provost for faculty affairs and academic programs, Dr. Monica Varsanyi, will co-chair the successor task force to the Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Education, and incoming Vice Chair Scott may be the other co-chair. In June, Academic Assembly approved the appointment of the next chair of the systemwide Committee on Committees as well as a resolution demanding that President Drake suspend implementation of Trellix and similar monitoring software. The president has since declined to stop the use of Trellix.

The June 25 Academic Council meeting included discussions about UC Health plan offerings for 2025-2026 and proposed revisions to Academic Personnel Manual policy 360 which deals with appointment and promotion in the librarian series. The report on faculty discipline policies and procedures will undergo a systemwide review in the fall and an interim policy is in place now. The Task Force on UC Adaptations to Disruptions is drafting an interim report that will be transmitted to Council in the next few weeks which will address how to manage disruptions to research. The governor's May revise called for a 3% reduction to UC and although the legislature then proposed a 0% cut, the budget signed by the governor maintains the 3% decrease. In July, the Regents will review potential changes to the tuition stability plan including raising the annual increase cap from 5% to 7% to allow greater flexibility in high inflation years.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items and their priority were approved.

Action: The June 6, 2025 meeting minutes were approved.

III. BOARS Leadership Updates Deborah Swenson, Chair; David Volz, Vice Chair

Chair Swenson indicated that the resolution about Trellex was the major item on the Assembly agenda and the Senate would like the administration to consult earlier about monitoring software in the future. Vice Chair Volz reported that Council approved the proposal from the Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ACSCOTI) to consolidate the existing biology, biochemistry, cell biology, and molecular biology transfer pathways, which share identical course expectations, into one biological sciences pathway. Additionally, students will be given the flexibility to either complete a one-year sequence of organic chemistry with lab or calculus-based physics with lab depending on whether organic chemistry with lab is required for their intended UC major and campus. Council approved the proposal to sunset ACSCOTI at the end of this academic year and BOARS will handle transfer related issues going forward. ACSCOTI had proposed modifying Area 5 in the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC) to allow students to take either a physical science or a biological science depending upon their intended UC major and campus. While this proposal was supported by UC and California Community Colleges (CCC) faculty, it was opposed by the Academic Senate of the California State University (CSU). The ACSCOTI proposal to defer up to four general education courses was withdrawn by ACSCOTI since data needed for a cost benefit analysis requested by multiple UC campuses are unavailable.

IV. Ideas for Reimagining the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE)

Chair Swenson explained that the proposal to sunset UCOPE was not approved in part due to serious concerns about preparation. One question is how BOARS will address its worries about preparatory education without overlapping with UCOPE or the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP). Many of the campuses are working on preparatory education matters such as math deficiencies and UCOPE could be a clearinghouse for tracking and sharing these activities across the system. The chair indicated that UCOPE's membership has included a member of BOARS. AVP Yoon-Wu worked with UCOPE on the administration of the systemwide Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) which students could take to satisfy UC's Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR). Before the COVID-19 pandemic, some campuses were rethinking the AWPE and wanted more innovative placement processes. The onset of the pandemic gave these campuses the opportunity to opt out of using the AWPE which was a self-supporting exam and the Vice President for GUEA subsequently determined that it would not be financially feasible to continue the exam. Each campus now has its own methods of clearing the ELWR. AVP Yoon-Wu did not recall the committee discussing math preparation very often which is in UCOPE's charge.

Analyst Abrams shared that UCOPE surveyed math departments in 2022-2023 and it appeared that that UCSD had the most organized placement process, but there was no follow-up to that effort. Given that the vice provosts and deans for undergraduate education now have a workgroup on math preparation and in light of concerns members of BOARS have expressed about poor performance in math, math placement could be a focus for UCOPE. Analyst Abrams also commented that many campuses are using directed self-placement for writing and reportedly writing programs may not be collecting the types of data that will allow for an assessment of student learning outcomes. It is unclear if campuses have a shared, standard definition of the systemwide ELWR. Senate leadership proposed that UCOPE could be involved with teacher training and engagement with K-12.

Discussion: While BOARS looks at A-G in the context of whether students are competitive for admissions, UCOPE could evaluate the effectiveness of A-G and Advanced Placement (AP)/ International Baccalaureate (IB) exams in terms of college-readiness and preparation for UC. UCOPE could investigate what is leading to students being unprepared and the predictive power of performance in A-G courses, AP, and IB relative to how students perform at UC. This would be similar to IRAP's recent analyses for BOARS but for preparation rather than admissions. It is essential to figure out why some students who look very competitive perform poorly in UC courses. A member pointed out that UCOPE's current charge is not limited to writing so revising it may not be necessary for that committee to look at A-G and credit by exam as suggested and this would not be duplicative of how BOARS investigates these issues from the admissions perspective or overlap with UCEP's charge. The BOARS representative on UCOPE would help to ensure that there is good communication between the two committees. Students are increasingly using artificial intelligence (AI) during K-12 and BOARS is concerned about the role of AI in eroding critical thinking skills and negatively impacting their preparation for college, so UCOPE could also explore this issue. It could be helpful for UCOPE to consult with the State Board of Education on K-12 matters.

V. Credit by Exam Subcommittee

The UCD and UCR representatives' work on a policy for credit by exam was valuable but complex questions emerged which Chair Swenson believes should be taken up by a subcommittee. The subcommittee which would report to BOARS should include UCEP and UCOPE representation and experts on testing. Members were asked to provide input on the charge and membership of the subcommittee.

Discussion: The boundaries between the authority of BOARS and UCEP for decisions about credit by exam should be better defined, so having a member of UCEP on the subcommittee will be critical. The UC and CSU policies on credit by exam were embedded in Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum and are now in Cal-GETC. Testing companies should inform UC when their scoring methods or scales change so their courses and exams can be reevaluated. The subcommittee should evaluate the validity of the College Board's evidence-based standard setting (EBSS) process. Vice Chair Volz remarked that the College Board's technical report on EBSS does not respond to many of the questions raised by BOARS members and there is not much detail. The College Board is relying heavily on a single paper published in 2013 by a group of Pearson employees, so the subcommittee might meet with Pearson to determine if that company still uses EBSS. A College Board representative would like to meet with BOARS in the fall and Vice Chair Volz would like members to suggest specific questions they would like addressed.

The subcommittee should thoroughly evaluate the College Board's scoring process and recommend what the cut scores should be at the systemwide or campus level. Analyst Abrams posited that one recommendation from the subcommittee should address messaging to students about the value of AP and IB exams. Another issue the subcommittee will need to study is students who took an AP or other external exam without taking the corresponding course and decide how this equates to taking the course and the exam or only taking the course. Prospective students are under the impression that their applications will be viewed more favorably based on the number of APs or honors courses they have taken per UC's Comprehensive Review criteria. However, a maximum of four AP, IB or honors courses may be used in the calculation of a student applicants weighted grade point average in recognition of imbalances in availability of these courses around

the state. Chair Swenson and Vice Chair Volz will incorporate the committee's feedback into the subcommittee's draft charge.

- VI. Consultation with Graduate, Undergraduate, & Equity Affairs (GUEA) & Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)
Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA; Chase Fischerhall, Director, A-G & Transfer Articulation, GUEA; Liz Terry, Manager of Admissions Analytics, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA; Angelica Moore, Director, Undergraduate Admissions, Policy & Communications, GUEA; Tongshan Chang, Director, IRAP; & Matt Reed, Senior Institutional Research & Planning Analyst, IRAP

Manager Terry provided an update on first year and transfer admission offers, noting that the number of California residents increased from last year to an all-time high while the proportion of first generation admits decreased a bit. The number of CCC students transferring to UC increased along with the proportion of first generation and low-income transfer students. Although the admission rate for international students has increased, there is uncertainty whether they will be able to secure visas in time for fall classes especially at the semester campuses. The official enrollment data will be released in December. IRAP shared updated analyses on test-free admissions and A-G performance based on the feedback BOARS members provided in May. The new analyses did not lead to any new conclusions.

VII. Member Reports/Campus Updates

UCSD: The admissions committee and a special workgroup on admissions continue to study math performance.

UCI: The committee has been discussing math placement issues and will analyze five years of data.

VIII. New Business

One campus representative proposed that randomization should be used to determine how a particular variable correlates to admissions outcomes and the committee discussed whether BOARS should issue clarification about its acceptability. Some members pointed out that randomization has drawbacks and there was no support for making a statement.

IX. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

The videoconference adjourned at: 1:05 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Deborah Swenson, Chair