

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

April 2, 2021

I. Announcements

- Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum Standards Committee: The group continues to await CSU and UC input regarding curricular standards for the new ethnic studies requirement. The time line has been relaxed; see below.
- Access and Choice Working Group: The group is collating feedback from the admission directors and other campus officials. Impacted majors presented unforeseen obstacles, and additional data are needed.

II. Systemwide Review Items

- Revisions to SVSH Frameworks for Faculty and Staff – Stakeholder Input
 - Proposed Presidential Policy on Classification of Gifts and Sponsored Awards
 - Presidential Policy on Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation (v. 3)
 - Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 610 (Defining Residency)
 - Proposed Presidential Policy: “UC Health Participation in Activities under the End of Life Option Act”
 - Proposed Revisions to Universitywide Policy Policies and Administrative Procedures (the “Gold Book”)
- BOARS elected not to opine on any of the items.

III. Campus Updates

UCB: 1) Faculty reviewers of applications sometimes reach different conclusions than admissions office readers. These discrepancies are under discussion. 2) The local committee appreciated the productive exchange with the Access and Choice Working Group.

UCD: 1) The local committee discussed and submitted feedback to the Access and Choice Working Group. 2) An historical analysis of athletics admits revealed many incomplete applications, but a new athletic director has implemented useful changes.

UCI: 1) The campus is closely monitoring SIRs. 2) The local Comprehensive Review scoring is under review: single scores and risk factors are leading topics. 3) Are there corresponding metrics for each of the 13 Comprehensive Review criteria?

UCLA: 1) Admission data are trending in positive directions. The impact of being test-free is under assessment. 2) Changes to the outreach strategy are being considered. One goal is to find more applicants who take more challenging courses; another is to improve diversity outcomes.

UCR: 1) Transfer enrollment trends are positive. The campus has increased targeted recruitment and seeks to expand mentorship opportunities. 2) Discussions continue regarding how to implement Comprehensive Review and integrate the Landscape dashboard.

UCSD: Post-pandemic student success and support needs remain unclear, especially absent traditional metrics such as test scores and letter-based GPAs.

UCSF: The campus continues not to admit undergraduates.

UCSC: 1) SIR rates are higher than expected, but concerns about yield and melt remain. 2) Discussions of how to tweak Comprehensive Review scoring to find efficiencies while not losing nuance continue.

Graduate Student: Better financial aid messaging and counseling, and even concierge service, are needed for first-generation students and those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Appeals assistance would be especially useful due to oddities under COVID. Consistency across the campuses would also help.

Undergraduate Student: 1) Students are not fond of using SBAC as an eligibility metric. 2) Some have suggested that UC should also have an Ethnic Studies graduation requirement. 3) Housing concerns have intensified during COVID.

IV. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

- March Regents: 1) The Office of Ethics, Compliance, and Audit Services, which is a dual-report to the Regents and the President, completed its own review of cases flagged by the state auditor and found only a few questionable cases. 2) A presentation on the economic impact of UC on the state was well-received and featured good data and messaging. It is hoped that future presentations consider factors beyond economic outcomes.
- Fall Enrollment: Enrollment numbers and diversity outcomes are being closely monitored.
- Reopening: The Senate continues to try to broaden the conversation to include considerations beyond spacing and vaccination requirements. Students, faculty, and staff have emotional needs the University should be prepared to address. The different support needed for instruction versus research must also be considered. Enforcement of requirements has not been discussed, and many privacy-related concerns have not been sufficiently addressed. Hybrid and asynchronous instructional delivery requests/obligations remain opaque, but faculty workloads are already overburdened.
- Retirement Planning: The Retirement Savings Plan now includes a Fossil Fuel Free fund option.

V. 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. Admission by Examination

This option is an alternate path for eligibility for applicants missing A-G or GPA requirements. BOARS is asked if an AP exam might replace the SAT subject exam, or if the path should be eliminated and applicants admitted under Exception, instead. Only about 50 applicants were admitted by Exam last year. All applicants entitled to review would still receive a full review. Students do not request to be admitted by exception; this is a campus categorization after a decision to admit is made. GUEA will provide data indicating there is room under the Admission by Exception caps to include this category.

- BOARS voted 9-0-1 to eliminate Admission by Examination, and will inform the Academic Council of this decision.

2. ELC and Online Schools

Currently, there are less than 200 students a year that apply to UC from online schools in the state, but future enrollments are unknown. Persistence rates of enrollees from online schools are strong, suggesting they are academically prepared for UC.

- BOARS voted unanimously to approve the addition of online schools that meet academic and accreditation requirements to be eligible to join ELC and will inform the Academic Council of this decision.

3. IGETC and Ethnic Studies Update

In addition to curricular alignment, synchronizing the launch of the proposed new requirement with CSU is also desired. The CSU Board of Trustees are required to act based on statute, but it is not yet confirmed if they will act in May or November 2021. The UC IGETC working group is expected to report soon.

4. Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)

External scholars are interested in researching responses to UC's PIQs, mostly looking for response biases. PIQs are evenly answered by demographic group, excepting applicants from low socio-economic and disadvantaged backgrounds. The admission directors can clarify further how PIQ responses are used by campuses and readers. Should changes be made to the PIQs since clear response patterns are evidenced by those from low socio-economic and disadvantaged backgrounds, or in response to COVID?

5. Preliminary Admission Data

Preliminary data on freshman admission outcomes were shared to indicate early trends but it's too early to make deductions on yield.

6. SBAC and A-G Data

The data are unclear as to predictive utility at this time. Student success outcomes are still being assessed. Which academic and hardship factors to weight and how to weight them are still being determined. Whether SBAC data can be integrated with GPA and other factors is also still being determined. The feasibility study next steps are still pending, so this data is timely.

VI. Further Discussion

None.

Adjournment: 2:45 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Madeleine Sorapure, BOARS Vice Chair

Sameer Srivastava, UCB

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

Jose Marquez Cuevas, Undergraduate Student Representative

Carlos Galan, Graduate Student Representative