

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Meeting**April 3, 2020****I. Consent Calendar**

- Approval of BOARS April 3, 2020 agenda
Action: The agenda was approved as amended.

II. Announcements

- The Academic Council met on April 1, 2020, and endorsed the report and recommendations of the Standardized Testing Task Force, with the additional recommendation that this same analysis be repeated in 5-years to see if the findings still hold true. The Academic Assembly will consider the question on April 15, and send its recommendation to the President.
- UC held a legislative advocacy day in Sacramento last month. Pending bills regarding UC admission, enrollment, and graduation of California resident students, particularly those from underrepresented groups or low socio-economic backgrounds, were discussed. Transfer options are also under scrutiny still. UC pressed for multi-year funding commitments from the state.
- The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) standards subcommittee met recently. 1) The group discussed again the quantitative course requirements and the fact that not all statistics classes require intermediate algebra. BOARS still feels strongly that the algebra requirement should be retained. 2) The group also discussed the writing requirement and how word counts versus page requirements should be calculated and compared. BOARS feels that composition and critique is more important than “box checking”, but encourages IGETC to learn more about courses on the bubble and consider broadening the net.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair

- COVID-19 Response: Chair Bhavnani thanks BOARS for their rapid responses to unanticipated questions following the COVID-19 public health crisis. In addition to admission criteria and deadline changes approved by BOARS, the Senate has also approved interim changes to course materials and copyrights and undergraduate and graduate student grading options. UC will shelter in place until May 3, for now. Summer sessions are still in question, and final decisions about research projects still need to be made. The state has deferred the tax deadline until July, and the state budget is essentially frozen; the May revise is expected to be grim. The medical centers are losing millions of dollars during the shutdown, and faculty on “soft money” are most at risk for income insecurity. The semi-annual UC Undergraduate Experience Survey will have COVID-19 response questions added to it for this administration of the survey; methods of surveying graduate and professional students are being discussed. Members noted that student financial hardship, not just institutional financial hardship, must also be considered and addressed. Chair Bhavnani noted that issues such as text book affordability and testing fees are considered local issues, but central recommendations to waive certain fees could carry significant weight with local administrators or third party officials.
- The Merced chancellor search committee has forwarded its recommendations to the President for a decision.
- The search for a new president continues.
- The Regents delayed their vote on cohort tuition.
- The report and recommendations of the Standardized Testing Task Force will go to the Academic Assembly on April 15.
- The online degree task force continues its work. A report is expected later this spring.
- The revised Admission by Exception guidelines are moving forward.

IV. Non-Resident Admissions

New guidelines for non-resident admissions must be developed now that Admission by Exception has been formally closed to them. Action taken by the Regents regarding standardized tests could complicate the matter. Absent A-G coursework, such tests are one of the only metrics that both California resident students and non-resident students have in common by which a non-resident may be judged to Compare Favorably, as required by Regents policy. Even similar coursework may not be directly comparable due to grading differences or other factors. Some suggest that Compare Favorably could be demonstrated with first year UC grades, not high school GPAs, but others worry the time lag involved will cause external audiences to discount such data. The number of and scores on AP tests could serve as a point of comparison, but AP tests are only available domestically and offerings vary widely outside of California.

Action: BOARS members will ask their admission directors for current processes used to evaluate non-resident applicants and report back next month.

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

Yvette Gullatt, Interim Vice President, Student Affairs

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director, Undergraduate Admissions

Tongshan Chang, Manager, Institutional Research and Academic Planning

1. UC Applications Update – Majors Display

A working group heard concerns following website redesign errors that miscoded some majors. For Fall 2021, the default display will be by college, and an alternate view will show by category. A major can be in multiple categories, such as biochemistry. UCOP will ensure consistency across campuses. A longer-term project to review categories and naming conventions is planned, and the Senate will be invited to participate.

2. COVID-19 Impacts to Admission

- For fall 2020, A-G courses with Pass or Credit grades will not count against GPA calculations or be capped. Subsequent cohort GPAs will be different, too.
- For Fall 2021, the SAT/ACT requirement has been waived, and has received much public attention.
- (Should the Academic Assembly decide to eliminate the SAT/ACT writing requirement for admission, clarifying language is being drafted. Impacts to the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) are being considered by the University Committee on Preparation Education.)
- The May administration of the Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE) has been canceled. Since about 25% of students use AWPE to meet ELWR, Student Affairs is working with the Innovation Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI) to develop an online, systemwide administration by early summer. AWPE readers are now employees under the “gig” employment law.
- AP exams will be online and shortened, covering only content through March. UC will grant standard credit for scores 3-5.
- Revised guidelines for evaluating transfer students have been generated. The number of units for junior standing and the amount of pass/credit courses to allow have been adjusted. Major preparation requirements are set locally, but UCOP has encouraged flexibility.
- Decision deadlines are not being altered, but deposit deadlines are. Some campuses have concerns about over-enrollment should students decide to stay closer to home than previously anticipated.
- The transcript deadline remains July 1, but schools can notify UCOP if a delay is needed; students will be held harmless.

- Each year, about 300-500 students submit multiple Statements of Intent to Register (SIRs). UCOP monitors them and alerts them to make a decision.
- FAFSA reviews are allowed upon request.

Members noted that messaging must be clear and frequent, especially regarding financial matters. Counselor webinars are already scheduled, with more to come. Students and parents, though, might not have financial literacy, and internet access may exacerbate that concern. Text or phone messaging to students may be more effective in reaching certain groups.

VI. Technology-based Assessments

Li Cai, Director of the Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST), UCLA

Overriding concerns for technology-based student assessments focus on fairness and access. Some assert that the end-user of the assessments should pay for their administration. Evaluating these assessments is difficult because there is no natural experiment or control group; both endogenous and exogenous variables will change, as will outcomes. Another question involves how to filter and present the data gleaned. One option could be to alter the application to elicit additional data, and another could be to administer a post-application survey. Further deliberations are needed in this complex area.

VII. Systemwide Review Items

1. Proposed Revised Presidential Policy on Protection of Human Subjects in Research
Members noted that guidelines should clarify definitions of roles, such as faculty, staff, students, post-docs, visiting scholars, etc.
2. Proposed Revised President Policy on Travel Regulations
The committee will not opine.
3. Proposed Presidential Policy on Gender Recognition and Lived Name
Members suggested that a deadline of “as soon as practical” should be added.

VIII. Campus Updates

Chair: A well-known public critic of standardized tests from the Berkeley campus has published a critique of the STTF report and methodology in the LA Times. Members of the STTF say the critic has misrepresented data, employed a distorting frame, and advanced a poor hypothesis. The Senate might do well to have a rebuttal in hand.

Berkeley: (absent)

Davis: 1) GPA and test scores are considered in context in local admission reviews. 2) Compliance with the audit recommendations has raised student privacy questions in the admission office, as well as workload concerns.

Irvine: 1) Enrollment impacts of COVID-19 are unclear. 2) The local admission office has proposed to return to a 5-point scale for admission review.

Los Angeles: 1) The state auditor was recently on campus, conducting their admissions audit following the “Varsity Blues” scandal. Compliance requirements are already onerous. 2) Some speculate if temporary changes made due to COVID-19 will remain temporary. 3) COVID-19 has negatively impacted targeted recruitments.

Merced: 1) COVID-19 planning has subsumed local discussions. Language for Pass/No Pass contingencies are being developed, for example. 2) The campus is still awaiting the name of a new chancellor.

Riverside: 1) COVID-19 discussions dominate. How going *de facto* test optional next fall will impact the campus admission formula is being considered. 2) The definition of a “special talent” is being clarified. 3) Guidance for international student recruitment is sought.

San Diego: 1) For now, enrollment projections are holding. 2) A virtual Triton Day will be held to outline enrollment choices and what students need to know about impacted majors.

San Francisco: UCSF continues not to admit undergraduates.

Santa Barbara: 1) The paper-trail workload required for audit recommendation compliance is daunting. 2) How the fall 2021 test-optional situation could be assessed is under discussion.

Santa Cruz: 1) System changes have been deferred to evaluate new technological innovations. 2) Some find the Regents verbiage regarding the testing requirement unclear.

Graduate Student: 1) Additional resources and support for curricular planning and changes are needed. 2) The digital divide continues to hurt the most vulnerable. 3) Reviews of financial aid plans must be rapid and responsive. The *status quo ante* was already too bureaucratic and complicated. 4) Students call for a move toward uniform holistic review at each campus.

Undergraduate Student: 1) Most students found the UCB response to COVID-19 to be quick and clear. 2) Next fall, test takers should not be advantaged during application reviews. Systemwide guidance would be welcomed by many. 3) Communications and outreach to vulnerable communities must be enhanced, not curtailed, during this time of crisis.

IX. Executive Session

Note: Item not addressed.

Adjournment 3:20 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Eddie Comeaux, Chair

Madeleine Sorapure, Vice Chair

Deborah Swenson, UCD

Susan Cohen-Cory, UCI

Barbara Knowlton, UCLA

Matt 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