

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

December 2, 2022

I. Chair's Announcements

Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair

1. Consent Calendar:

- DRAFT Minutes of November 4, 2022
 - The minutes were approved as amended.

2. General Updates:

- Academic Council of November 21, 2022: 1) The Council met with some of the UC negotiating team to discuss definitions and processes, as well as possible impacts to undergraduates. 2) Cal-GETC was approved by Council as well as the other segments and will go to the Academic Assembly for final ratification. 3) The number of online courses and degree programs can impact a student's financial aid. The academic criteria and residency requirements must accord with WASC definitions. 4) The review of the Entry Level Writing Requirement changes raised concerns about fee usage, summer logistics, and the oversight committee.

3. Other Committees:

- Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS): The chair rotates between the segments, and this year, the California Community Colleges (CCCs) are chairing. 1) Cal-GETC was the main topic at this week's meeting. The California State University (CSU) sees major changes, but approved the proposal anyway. The second step of AB 928 implementation is to investigate possible changes to the Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) program. Outside stakeholders, such as the Campaign for College Opportunity, presented.

Members wondered whether transfer should be one-size-fits-all or should offer meaningful choice. UC remains focused on academic preparation.

II. Systemwide Review Item

- Assign Lead Reviewer
 - Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices
 - UCSB Representative Mitchell will serve as lead reviewer.

III. BOARS Business

1. Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations

The proposed amendments reflect the rescission of standardized tests from admissions requirements as well as internal citation changes to match newly rearranged Regental policies on admissions. Similar revisions to BOARS' guidelines for implementation of Comprehensive Review are also submitted.

Members noted that at the time of removal of standardized tests, the Senate and administration were asked to consider other test options or whether UC could develop its own test. Chair Knowlton noted that the Smarter Balanced Assessment was not a good match for UC needs, and that the time and cost needed to develop an independent test were prohibitive. Nonetheless, alternate test language was retained in conformity with approved policy.

➤ The revisions were approved with two abstentions and zero nays.

2. CSU Academic Senate Resolutions

The CSU academic senate sent two resolutions to BOARS. The first reiterates their concerns about Cal-GETC and suggests how changes might be made if unintended consequences result. The second regards Area C (Math), which currently requires 3 years and recommends a 4th, especially for students considering a STEM field. Recent changes to Area C allow for other forms of quantitative reasoning to meet Area C, and for some students, data sciences or statistics may be more appropriate than the Calculus track. Some are concerned that students may pursue the wrong track and will be unprepared for college-level work in many STEM majors and wonder whether additional criteria for newly approved courses are needed. ICAS will be the main location for these discussions.

Members noted that many STEM faculty are quite concerned about adequate math preparation. Others noted that not all students know which track to take since they may not know their future academic plans.

3. UCEP Reports

The University Committee on Education Policy (UCEP) has issued two reports. The first focuses on online undergraduate degree programs, and the second on protections for academic integrity and intellectual property. Both were discussed by Council and are posted publicly.

a. The White Paper on Online Undergraduate Degree Programs builds on a previous UCEP paper and contains a lot of definitions and parameters and discusses how to maintain quality in the face of student preferences and enrollment growth targets. The distinction between a one-off online course and an online degree program is important to note. Many employers seem less keen on online degrees. Engagement requirements preclude asynchronous course delivery. Accreditation needs are also not yet fully known. Members noted that rapid market growth in online courses nationally, but also noted that most rely on for-profit contractors for instructional delivery. Many seem to think online degrees will be viewed as a different class or category of degree. Less advantaged students may be funneled to online programs, leading to predatory inclusion. High drop-out and debt rates in online programs should also be considered. Careful pedagogy and additional data are needed across the board in this area. The impact of the COVID pivot is still unknown. Still others noted that online instruction works better for certain levels of courses and for certain majors.

Others noted that on-campus accommodations can be more expensive than the market in some UC areas, and so residency requirements could pose a financial hardship to some. But

empty dorms impact debt service obligations. Financial options for room and board exist, and President Drake has advocated for debt-free UC.

“Last mile” students could benefit from program options.

- b. The second paper, Recommendations for Protecting Academic Integrity and Intellectual Property, addresses issues raised by use of online tutoring sources such as Chegg and CouseHero. As many as 36% of students admit to using these services, and plagiarism, test interference, and privacy concerns converge.

4. Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ACSCOTI) Pathway Review Proposal
Wallace Cleaves, BOARS Vice Chair

ACSCOTI proposes to “triage” new pathway proposals and steward reviews of current proposals by coordinating ad hoc faculty groups, supervising final reviews, and monitoring the process and implementation throughout. BOARS is invited to consult regularly or as needed, and to opine on final reviews as desired. Course screens and impacted majors will be factors under consideration.

Chair Knowlton asked how course screens were communicated. Vice Chair Wallace noted that overpreparation in a major is more of a concern; in the recently reviewed sociology pathway, extra sociology coursework did not decrease time to degree or improve student success. Other pathways have not yet been reviewed.

Members wondered whether the minimum number of participating campuses should be higher, and what incentives departments have to participate in the pathways.

BOARS looks forward to the next iteration of the proposal.

5. General Campus Updates

UCB: 1) How policy language can help solve transfer issues is under discussion. 2) More data on Area C is needed- which high schools are offering data science? Are students taking Calculus before data science? Which track are first-generation students, students from underrepresented groups, low socio-economic or otherwise disadvantaged backgrounds taking?

UCD: 1) The review process is ramping up. Scoring and rubric are under review.

UCI: 1) The impact of drop-outs and students taking fewer units on the student FTE ratio was less than expected but remains a concern. Impacts seem localized to certain majors, but time-lags and data paucity are challenges. 2) Reader training and orientation was conducted. 3) Outreach for shrinking majors to students, admissions officers, and counselors was discussed.

UCLA: 1) The committee met with the new interim Vice Provost for Enrollment Management. 2) Meeting the 2:1 first-year:transfer admissions ratio, with the latter pool shrinking, seems increasingly difficult without lowering academic standards. 3) No rush in application submission was reported after opening the application portal early this year. 4) How to improve the yield calculator was under discussion. 5) Systemwide review items were discussed. 6) The impacts of COVID and the removal of standardized tests from admission requirements remain entangled. 7) The campus continues efforts to achieve HSI designation. 8) Improving diversity on local committees is needed, but must be balanced with other, extra demands on faculty from underrepresented groups.

UCM: 1) The committee heard from UCOP’s financial aid office regarding the UC Debt Free plan. The intersection with local admissions is unclear, but will be monitored closely.

UCR: 1) Finalist candidates for a new admission director will be interviewed next week. 2) Holistic review rubric is under scrutiny.

UCSD: Reader training is available for local committee members.

UCSF: The campus continues not to admit undergraduates.

UCSB: 1) Applications leveled off this year, though transfer applications are lagging.

Maintaining the 2:1 ratio or maintaining academic standards for transfer is under consideration.

2) A new admissions software system is in place, allowing more ways to mine relevant data. 3)

A revised reader training manual was reviewed. Compacted GPAs make the read more important. 4) There is no reader shortage, for a change.

UCSC: 1) Meeting the 2:1 ratio is a concern this year. CCCs do not use +/- . Criteria for second-year transfers are under discussion.

6. Admission Director Debrief

Note- Item deferred.

7. Ethnic Studies Implementation Work Group Update

Wallace Cleaves, BOARS Vice Chair

The new Work Group has been empaneled and has convened. It is being co-chaired by BOARS Vice Chair Cleaves and Professor Christine Hong from UCSC. The group will: 1) identify a handful of key curriculum standards; 2) survey California high schools for their plans to find/develop qualifying courses. A preliminary search by UCOP suggested that as many as 40% of high schools may currently have a course that qualifies or could be modified to qualify. Additionally, a statewide participation survey is upcoming; 3) try to articulate how an ethnic studies requirement would lead to stronger academic preparation and improved on-campus success; 4) develop course guidelines, building on previous work, and being mindful of inclusive language and academic standards.

Chair Knowlton noted that the curriculum standards list should just be a core list, but could also suggest additional standards that are desirable but not required. The group should also be mindful of high school teacher workloads for developing courses and receiving training in instructional delivery and the underlying methodology. Members noted that Ethnic Studies in the UC academic preparation context should be defined in contradistinction to DEI-focused efforts, multicultural efforts, and perhaps even external expectations. Access should remain top of mind – a low-sending school should not become a “no-sending” school. At least one member called for a review of previous additions to A-G requirements to determine if UC faculty experts were forced to compromise then, too. The proposed language should match the tone and style of other A-G verbiage. Pressure from external stakeholders remains constant.

IV. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Susan Cochran, Academic Council Chair

James Steintrager, Academic Council Vice Chair

- The Regents met in November. 1) Chair Cochran presented the results of the second faculty survey on the impacts of COVID on the faculty. 2) A transfer report was presented, but it analyzes a time prior to COVID. 3) An off-site retreat was held as a networking opportunity. Most chancellors seek greater funding, and many Regents seek greater access.

- The Academic Council endorsed the Cal-GETC proposal and forwarded it to the Academic Assembly.
- Climate Change is being addressed on many fronts. 1) A new group, the Pathways to a Fossil Free UC (P2FFUC) Task Force, seeks to fully decarbonize UC. 2) The Global Climate Leadership Council (GCLC) has a broader remit, including research efforts. 3) The Senate will convene an ad hoc group to ensure the Climate Memorial is enacted and to ensure that faculty experts are well-utilized.
- Labor issues were discussed. Negotiations continue. The impact to the faculty is and will be significant, but only the Senate is emphasizing this point. Many perceive a zero-sum funding environment. Salary inversion could result in some instances, complicating grant administration and some areas of academic hiring. The Senate continues to seek additional ways to share its voice.

V. Consultation with the Office of the President – Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs

Yvette Gullatt, Vice President and Vice Provost

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions

Chase Fischerhall, Director, A-G and Transfer Policy Analysis & Coordination

Tongshan Chang, Director, IRAP

1. Application Update
2. Admission Outcomes During COVID and Post-SAT/ACT

Note: Item deferred.

VI. Further Discussion and New Business

None.

Adjourned at 3 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair

Wallace Cleaves, BOARS Vice Chair

Sophie Volpp, UCB

John Stachowicz, UCD

Sergio Gago-Masague, UCI

Robert Watson, UCLA

Charlie Eaton, UCM

Peter Sadler, UCR

Akos Rona-Tos, UCSD

Josh Berke, UCSF

Greg Mitchell, UCSB

Laura Giuliano, UCSC