

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

December 4, 2020

I. Announcements

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

1. Feasibility Working Group

The working group will report to the Steering Committee that it is feasible to explore modifying the Smarter Balanced Assessment for UC admissions over the next four years, per the Regents timeline. Any modifications must increase equity, align with admission criteria, and established testing principles. To support any proposed modifications, UC will partner with the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the California Department of Education to get item-level data and conduct independent analyses into possible bias in individual questions. UC would monitor the effects of SBA on admissions and outcomes, if SBA became a “high stakes” test. Open considerations include placement, eligibility, and selection. The Senate expects a role for BOARS in any next steps adopted by the Steering Committee, and their report will be shared when appropriate. The Steering Committee includes several stakeholder groups, such as the California Department of Education, CSU, CCC, external testing experts, Provost Brown, and UC Council Chair Gauvain.

Members inquired if the Steering Committee was fully aware of “high stakes” testing concerns, and Chair Comeaux noted that the working group report includes that specifically. Further, the incremental value of SBA is not yet known. Many specifics of test administration would remain to be determined, should a new test be adopted. The original intent of SBA should also be kept in mind.

2. Other Committees: ICAS, UCOPE, ASSIST

ICAS will meet next week, and UCOPE in January. The ASSIST Advisory Committee received an introductory session to a new web interface designed to be an articulation hub, which is especially useful for counselors.

II. Access and Choice Working Group Update

David Smith UCSC, Madeleine Sorapure BOARS Vice Chair, Mike Gordon UCSB, Carlos Galan Graduate Student Representative

The group continues to explore models available in the market that could be adjusted to meet UC needs. Efforts to bring students to their campus of choice could have several benefits, including economic stability, a better social network, and smoother access to the University intellectual community. Direct admission to a major on a wide scale would present different challenges to

campuses. Not all available models include diversity outcomes or demonstrate longitudinal success. Comprehensive Review should be retained in conjunction with any new model.

How lower holistic rank admissions can be justified under public scrutiny is a concern to many. Further, yield and melt concerns complicate assessment, which suggests better recruitment strategies and aid offers are needed. Campus buy-in is also necessary, which would require more campus resources.

Members speculated as to what would happen if ELC were the only eligibility metric. Longitudinal study would help demonstrate social mobility, but 10 year studies will not help in the current environment. Student support service increases are also necessary to improve student success, especially for those from vulnerable communities and backgrounds.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

- Campus curtailment plans are being announced.
- The Innovative Learning Technology Initiative report is out for systemwide review.
- A faculty salary task force report is forthcoming.
- The November Regents meeting covered several relevant topics:
 - A new financial aid program was announced by President Drake, Road to a Debt-Free UC.
 - Tribal liaisons are being considered to improve Alaska Native enrollment.
 - ADA compliance is lacking systemwide.
 - The Student Basic Needs working group called for student access to the Cal Fresh program.
 - The UCD Aggie Square project was approved with the hopes that more affordable housing will be included.
 - A proposal to protect UC Retirement Program accruals from curtailment-related cuts was approved.
 - A lengthy discussion on improving transfer to UC was held. UC is facing significant pressure to adopt *in toto* the CSU/CCC Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) program, despite UC faculty objections that some ADTs do not provide adequate academic preparation for upper level UC coursework. UC capacity concerns were not raised. Members noted that online education does not save money and will not solve any capacity issues, absent significant new funding. Despite the unpopularity of online education with some students, several Regents still push for more online education. Disadvantaged students still struggle to engage fully through online course delivery. Learning outcomes must be monitored and kept at the fore of discussions. The Senate and UC should develop a comprehensive strategy and pedagogy for hybrid education before one is thrust upon from without.
- The administration is formulating the University's official response to the state auditor's admission report. No formal Senate position is being proposed at this time.

IV. Systemwide Review Items

1. Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report
Action: The committee response was approved as noticed.

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 Cycle Update

The deadline was extended to today due to technical difficulties with one of the servers the day before the November 30th deadline. Domestic non-resident applications are up about 20%, and California resident applications are up about 4%. The reason for the increases is unknown at present. A couple of campuses may further extend their deadlines to December 15, and special considerations for transfer deadlines may be offered, too. Transfer applications are trending down at present.

Members speculated that a decrease in Latinx applications could be due to differential COVID impacts.

2. Statewide Eligibility Index

The Regents have asked for a new policy with all due haste. Currently, there are two paths for the admissions guarantee: the statewide index and ELC.

Members noted that academic components must remain strong, and that in context assessment is best for applicants. More data on applicants' high schools, not just on the other applicants from that high school, is necessary, but getting access to non-applicant data requires permissions as it raises privacy concerns.

The distinction between eligibility and selection is seldom recognized in the public discourse. Student minimally eligible are Entitled to Review, and the admission guarantee applies to the 9X9 pool. Members agreed that ETR should be kept, and speculated how GPA calculations might be adjusted to provide more granular and useful data. The value added by 9th grade GPAs, and the distinctions between a B+ and an A- versus a B+ and a B-, for example, were discussed. Students respond stressfully to new metrics, and variations in grading practices throughout California high schools were also noted.

Whether UC should retain the statewide eligibility index was also discussed. The Master Plan calls for an admission guarantee, but the need for a statewide index is unclear. Members noted the questionable utility of the referral given the low take rate, but others noted that political and public relations concerns argue for keeping the referral pool. One potential disadvantage to eliminating the statewide index would be that successful students from large schools may not make the ELC cut-off and lose their guarantee.

Data needs for further discussion will be collected by email.

BOARS voted not to use the statewide index this year given extenuating external circumstances.

3. CSU Ethnic Studies Requirement and IGETC

CSU is enacting a new ethnic studies requirement for graduation which also applies to transfer students, and BOARS is asked to opine on where and how in the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) that requirement should be included. CSU prefers a stand-alone requirement (i.e., ethnic studies is its own new IGETC subject area), rather than a cross-reference designation (e.g., ethnic studies courses are approved within an existing IGETC subject area, such as social and behavioral sciences, but are designated as a new course requirement).

BOARS members will consult with their campuses and report back next month.

VI. Campus Updates

UCB: 1) The campus is focusing on its response to the state auditor report. 2) A review of reader training is underway.

UCD: 1) Athletics admission practices are being assessed. 2) Potential adjustments to holistic review metrics are being discussed.

UCI: Diversity goals are being framed for each school.

UCLA: The campus will be test-free next year.

UCM: 1) Financial aid communications are being assessed. 2) How to afford more readers is being discussed.

UCR: 1) The campus will be test-free next year. 2) How best to implement holistic review is still under discussion.

UCSD: [No update.]

UCSB: 1) Athletics admissions procedures are being assessed. 2) Options for admissions to impacted majors are being sought.

UCSC: 1) Strategies to increase applications, especially from the Latinx community, are being sought. 2) Determining when it is necessary to do a second holistic read is under discussion.

Graduate Student: Training for readers seems to be improving.

VII. Further Discussion

None.

Meeting adjourned at 4 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

Carlos Galan, Graduate Student Representative