

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

February 5, 2021

I. Announcements

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

1. Ethnic Studies Requirements: The University Committee on Committees is populating a working group to create an A-G ethnic studies requirement. The state is also developing an ethnic studies model curriculum for California high school students, and alignment is desirable. Chair Comeaux will co-chair the A-G group and report regularly to BOARS. A separate working group is developing ethnic studies course criteria as guidance for California community college courses to meet a proposed new ethnic studies requirement for the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). Alignment between the UC requirement and the California State University requirement is a shared goal of both systems.
2. Feasibility Working Group: Data analyses are underway, currently focusing on Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) scores and first year performance.
3. Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS): Access issues across the segments reflect similar concerns regarding family responsibilities and local campus attendance. Advising improvements are needed across all segments, and math/STEM preparation concerns suggest a mismatch in expectations. Transfer remains a challenge
4. University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE): Writing preparation concerns are being raised across the system, and the Analytical Writing Placement Examination is under scrutiny. A task force to assess the Entry Level Writing Requirement overall is being formed.

II. Campus Updates

UCB: 1) How to apply faculty norm-setting in application review to holistic review processes is under discussion. 2) The role of admission director is being expanded.

UCD: The local committee will review last fall's data in detail before making further recommendations for changes during COVID.

UCI: Metrics for comprehensive review are being reviewed with the goal of better transparency for counselors and students. Outreach efforts are increasing, and impacted majors may have additional academic recommendations.

UCLA: A campus ad hoc report on special talent admissions, athletics, art, architecture, for example, is being reviewed. How best to involve faculty in the process is under discussion. Diversity outcomes for special talent admissions are also under scrutiny.

UCM: 1) A secondary review process is being finalized.

UCR: 1) COVID has hampered the campus move to holistic review. The use of the Landscape dashboard is under discussion. 2) How to maintain diversity outcomes in the face of negative campus climate reports is becoming an urgent concern.

UCSD: The application review process is being reconsidered in light of large increases in applications. Diversity outcomes are being monitored closely.

UCSF: The campus still does not admit undergraduates.

UCSB: 1) The campus will be test-free for 22-23 as well. 2) An enrollment management task force report is under review. 3) A new process for cognitive assessment during application review led to the recruitment of many new readers. 4) Registration priority changes to address equity concerns are being developed. 5) The College of Engineering is seeking to address declines in DEI outcomes with proactive strategies.

UCSC: 1) The local committee is working on a GPA predictor for first year outcomes. 2) Guidance is sought regarding compare favorably metrics, especially for international students. 3) Engineering has floated a separate admission procedure. 4) Projections suggest the campus will make the 2:1 enrollment goal.

Undergraduate Student: 1) Many are concerned about SBA becoming a “high stakes” test. 2) Many are concerned about discrepancies in evaluations of students receiving letter grades versus those receiving Pass/No Pass grades.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

- January Regents: 1) Many Regents support some sort of admissions test, and are keenly interested in the outcome of the Feasibility Working Group. 2) Projected budget cuts are as expected, but some line items and some proposed legislation involving online courses and dual admissions for transfer students are new concern.
- Fall Reopening: Reopening is expected systemwide in the fall. Vaccine distribution remains a concern. The University expects lawsuits regarding any position on vaccine mandates.
- COVID Impacts on Faculty: Council endorsed a memo outlining faculty morale and advancement concerns specific to COVID and will ask the campuses to work jointly with divisional Senates to address them.
- Online Education: The lack of a consistent pedagogy is becoming problematic as many Regents continue to call for greater online education to address access and capacity issues.
- Systemwide Human Resources: The unit is being assessed for reorganization, and the Senate will be consulted as a stakeholder.
- Comprehensive Access: The Senate position remains unchanged, and action is expected by the Regents in March.

- Transfer Issues: Discussions between the administration, the Senate, and the Regents often seem to be orthogonal: displacement, academic preparation, on-campus support, and more, must all be addressed, but in what priority remains unclear.
- Riverside: 1) Perhaps due to an administrative error, the campus lost its Hispanic Serving Institution designation and related funding. 2) Budget concerns have led some to propose eliminating the athletic department. Funding streams, re-benching, and non-resident supplemental tuition distribution are all under scrutiny once more.

IV. Access and Choice Working Group Update

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

The working group is analyzing data provided by UCOP. They will also seek feedback from the admission directors before making any final recommendations. BOARS members can view materials in BOX.

V. Systemwide Review Items

1. Presidential Policy on UC Research Data and Tangible Research Materials
 - The committee elected not to opine on this item.

VI. 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. Access and Eligibility
Data for the new eligibility index was presented. Communications issues will need to be addressed quickly.
2. Admission by Examination
Senate Regulation 440 provides for Admission by Examination, but changes to the standardized testing landscape and concerns about Admission by Exception caps require BOARS' attention. Home schooled students and the independent learner population are particularly impacted, as they will not take SBA, either. Academic preparation must still be assessed, though. Discussion will continue next month.
3. AP Modern History
A new curriculum has been announced, and many view the loss of writing expectations in the examination itself as a negative change, even though coursework should still emphasize writing. An exam score of 3 or higher for baccalaureate credit, as per other AP examinations, is recommended by faculty reviewers.
 - BOARS adopted the proposal to accept the recommendation, with one abstention.

4. Annual Reports on Comprehensive Review and Compare Favorably

BOARS members did not propose any new metrics, but the reports next year must include Admission by Exception per state auditor request. More information on the use of Augmented Review will again be sought.

- Analyst Feer will solicit the campuses for their narrative reports.

5. Legislative Update

Several pending legislative items could impact UC admissions and BOARS' work:

- AB 214: The Governor's budget bill which includes a dual admission condition. This proposal carries budget rider implications. It asks UC to allow admission to a specific campus, asserting that TAGs are too limited. UC's response is being developed, but must be determined soon. Data to support any position will be needed. Public calls for UC to adopt CCC's Associate Degrees for Transfer are growing, but academic preparation discrepancies remain unaddressed.
- AB 104: Pupil instruction. This would allow students to request grade reporting changes (e.g., switch from letter grade to P/NP) to their final transcripts from high school.
- AB 233: UC admissions. This is more follow-up from the state auditor report on special talent admissions.
- AB 251: Admission by Exception: Again, this is more follow-up from the state auditor report on special talent admissions.

VII. Further Discussion

None.

Adjournment: 3:05 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