

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Meeting

February 7, 2020

I. Consent Calendar

- Approval of BOARS February 7, 2020 agenda
Action: The agenda was approved as noticed.

II. Chair's Announcements

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

- The Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) report and recommendations are out for formal systemwide review. UCSF Representative Hasenstaub did an excellent job as the BOARS liaison. See also Item VI below.
- Council Chair Bhavnani is convening a working group to set a charge for a successor group to develop a Senate position regarding Climate Change
Action: UCSB Representative Gordon will serve on BOARS' behalf.
- UCOP is forming a transfer implementation monitoring task force.
Action: UCLA Representative Knowlton will serve on BOARS' behalf.
- The Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Standards Committee met and discussed math preparation, and specifically whether intermediate algebra or statistics without algebra would be satisfactory for the requirement.
Action: BOARS voted 7-4 to preserve the algebra prerequisite.
- Implementation of the final change to area D, requiring 3 classes instead of 2 with a 3rd recommended, remains stalled as the Provost was not persuaded by data from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) nor by additional data from UCOP.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair

- The Working Group on Comprehensive Access has completed its work, and all Senate groups are welcome to submit feedback.

- The search for the next UC president is underway.
- The Regents may take action on cohort tuition in March.
- A General Obligation bond is on the March 3 ballot. Should it pass, UCOP has already determined campus allocations.
- The search for the next UC Merced chancellor is moving apace.
- The Senate's online degree task force has been empaneled and will soon begin work in earnest.
- UCSC division Chair Lau is leading a working group on improving faculty diversity.
- The Regents committee on academic affairs held interesting conversations about proportional representation in admissions, possibly by demographic or geographic factors. They also discussed differential A-G availability, online access, and financial aid fluency. Better support for students between acceptance and matriculation is needed. Better communication of the Admission by Exception and Eligibility in the Local Context is needed for high school students and counselors.

IV. Holistic Review at UC Berkeley

Femi Ogundele, Director of Admission, UC Berkeley

Berkeley admissions seeks to view applicants as whole people, not numbers. Knowledge of the local context, especially in rural areas, is critical to this process. Application readers should “anchor” in the local school context before reading the application. Readers look for excellence, not perfection, and non-cognitive variables are important indicators in this area, particularly for applicants from underrepresented groups or low socio-economic backgrounds. Verification relies upon knowledge of the local context, so Berkeley is moving toward regional recruiters for targeted recruitment in low-sending high schools and CCCs. For Augmented Review, Letters of Recommendation are randomly solicited from applicants who are either first generation or from low income or CEP schools. Yield accuracy is improving due to increases in outreach. It is unfortunate that some applicants must use their Personal Insight Questions to describe hardship rather than excellence, and recruiters and counselors should encourage applicants toward the latter whenever possible.

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

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director, Undergraduate Admissions

Monica Lin, Director, Academic Preparation and Relations with Schools and Colleges

Tongshan Chang, Manager, Institutional Research and Academic Planning

1. Internal Audit Phase II

With Matt Hicks, Systemwide Deputy Audit Officer

This phase of the internal audit will focus on file reviews and outcomes of Admission by Exception. There are 14 new recommendations- 5 to student affairs and 9 to the campuses. There is no special talent admit tracking in the status quo, but AbyE tracking is better. Most AbyE admits seem to be of higher income and non-residents due to academic deficiency or GPA discrepancy.

2. Revised Admission by Exception (AbyE) Guidelines

BOARS discussed potential limits to the AbyE policy and guidelines, such as limiting it to California residents only and generating separate guidelines for non-residents. Another possibility is to limit AbyE to disadvantaged applicants, but how to operationalize “disadvantaged” and choose between such applicants would be difficult. Non-residents must still meet the Compare Favorably standard. BOARS must take final action at its March 6, 2020 meeting.

VI. Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF) Report and Recommendations

Members noted that the report does a good job to refute popular misconceptions and prove the value of contextualized assessment of standardized testing data. UC does an excellent job of enrollment first generation and low-income students, especially when compared to comparable public and private institutions. Nonetheless, enrollment rates could be higher, and it is not clear to all that continued use of standardized tests, even in the local context, will help grow these rates. If a standardized testing requirement is retained, such tests should be administered free of charge and through high schools during the school day.

VII. Campus Updates

Berkeley: 1) Local discussions have focused on how to get to know the applicant better and how to assess non-cognitive factors better. 2) Also under discussion is how to best apply holistic review to transfer applicants. 3) Graduate student diversity and admission practices are under scrutiny; some have called for discontinuation of the GREs.

Davis: 1) A formal response to the internal audit is being finalized. 2) A local AbyE special outreach program is under assessment. 3) The campus will pilot an single-cost online textbook price program in the fall.

Irvine: 1) UCI received a record high number of applications, causing workload concerns. Domestic non-resident applications increased by 10%. 2) A task force on enrollment management has been formed, and tasked to create a 5-year plan.

Los Angeles: 1) STEM schools may need to lower enrollment caps to ensure student success. 2) How best to message applicants from underrepresented groups continues to be a topic of discussion.

Merced: The local committee is vetting a policy on impacted majors and plans to discuss the STTF report and recommendations next week.

Riverside: Local discussions have focused on 1) Admission by Exception, 2) the assessment of opportunity, and 3) the STTF report and recommendations.

San Diego: 1) The entire local committee underwent holistic review training. 2) The upcoming transition to Division I sports is having application implications as sports commitment deadlines do not align with the admission calendar.

San Francisco: UCSF continues not to admit undergraduates.

Santa Barbara: 1) The campus' audit response has been formally submitted. 2) Changes to the online application major selection tool have caused an odd spike in applications, such as a 400% increase in applications to geology. 3) A new diversity in education major is being developed.

Santa Cruz: The campus selection process is under review, with an eye to incorporating more income and neighborhood data.

Graduate Student: 1) California resident enrollment seems to be being backfilled by transfer students, but on-campus transfer support is lacking. 2) COVID-19 may impact student recruitment.

Undergraduate Student: 1) A transfer advocacy day in Sacramento is being schedule for April. 2) A new focus will be on support for Native American students and climate impacts on enrollment for that group.

VIII. Executive Session

Note: Item not addressed.

Adjournment 4 pm.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Eddie Comeaux, Chair

Madeleine Sorapure, Vice Chair

Jabari Mahiri, UCB

Deborah Swenson, UCD

Susana 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