

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

January 6, 2023

I. Chair's Announcements

*Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair*

1. Consent Calendar: DRAFT Minutes of December 2, 2022
  - The minutes were approved as amended.
2. General Updates
  - 1) The Academic Council and Academic Assembly meetings in December were largely taken up with labor issues. Most grades have been submitted, but some issues have been slower to resolve. Some departments may cut graduate enrollment to afford the new wage structure, while others may propose more self-supporting programs.
  - 2) The conforming amendments to Senate admission regulations submitted by BOARS were approved for systemwide review. Concerns about test usage for placement purposes remain, though.
  - 3) The Assembly approved Cal-GETC. The other segments are expected to approve it soon, too.
  - 4) The Council will issue a statement regarding usage of ELWR fees.
  - 5) The Council received a presentation on behavioral health access and outcomes and will forward it to President Drake.
3. Other Committees

None.

II. Systemwide Review Items

- Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices  
*UCSB Representative Mitchell, Lead Reviewer*

The revisions set modest goals for new building "green" certification and fleet renewal, and could be helpful public relations to applicants. Feasibility concerns, though, might cause some to view the policy as hollow. Housing improvements could impact applications and matriculations.

  - Analyst Feer will draft a memo of support for electronic endorsement.
- Presidential Policy on Vaccination Programs  
*UCSF Representative Berke, Lead Reviewer*

The policy updates the definition of an "up-to-date" booster, but otherwise the contents are largely unchanged. Booster mandates could impact applications and matriculations, especially for international students who may need clarification of "foreign equivalents" or may require

longer grace periods. Exemption, or opt-out, criteria could also be made clearer. Frequent communications will be needed, as well.

- Analyst Feer will draft a memo for electronic approval.

### III. **BOARS Business**

#### 1. General Campus Updates

UCD: The local committee is reviewing local processes.

UCSB: Additional data from institutional research regarding reach score and student success is being generated. More weight may be given to the read score given recent changes. An applicant's academic rigor, hardship, and extra-curriculars are not clear in GPAs.

UCSC: The campus is focused on transfer issues.

UCSD: 1) Admissions to impacted majors is under scrutiny, and offers of admission to non-majors of choice is being re-evaluated. Many have equity concerns. 2) The impact of federal changes to affirmative action practices in admission have some on edge, but California already has Prop 209, so possible changes are expected to be minimal.

UCLA: 1) Some on the local committee are concerned about student success outcomes during COVID and still think that standardized tests should be an available option because of a perceived lack of information about applicants and grade inflation. Success outcomes should be monitored closely. 2) Many are increasingly concerned about math preparation, including the inadequacy of data-science pathways as preparation for UC STEM majors, which could backfire against diversity goals. 3) Meta-evaluation of PIQ essays is needed to prevent or catch 'bots and plagiarists. 4) The UCLA 5-year strategic plan needs more specifics about enrollment and admissions. The current focus on managerial efficiency is not adequate for the campus. Qualitative factors should be included.

UCI: 1) Applications are still increasing, especially in computer science and engineering fields. 2) Concern about poor math preparation causing students to drop out are increasing. 3) Some have leveled the same criticisms against AP tests as against the SAT and ACT. 4) 60% of applications are for just 10 majors. Yield modeling and application ranking are under discussion.

UCB: No report.

UCR: 1) A new campus strategic plan reflects the cascade impacts of demands for increased admissions. 2) A new admission director will be announced soon.

UCSF: The campus continues not to admit undergraduates.

#### 2. AD Debrief

BOARS will invite the admission directors back in the spring. Preliminary topics include the impact of test-free admissions and transfer strategies.

#### 3. In-person Debrief

Chair Knowlton will poll members for a second in-person meeting.

#### 4. Labor Considerations

The impacts to undergraduate admissions are unknown at this time.

### IV. **Consultation with the Office of the President – Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs (GUEA) and Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)**

*Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA*

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

*Tongshan Chang, Director, IRAP*

*Matt Reed, Analyst, IRAP*

1. Application Update

For Fall 2023 admission, the deadline was November 30. More than 244,000 applications were received, down 3% from Fall 2022, mostly reflected in a decline in international applicants. California first-year applicants were flat. Most underrepresented groups showed an increase in applications, except for African Americans. Transfer applications were down 6% across the board, on top of the previous decline of nearly 12%. Some campuses have extended their transfer application deadline.

2. Admission Outcomes during COVID and Post-SAT/ACT

The data show that first-year persistence is down, which could impact 4-year graduation rates. But these changes are on-trend with broader higher education. Additional parsing of the data by major or STEM/non-STEM could be illustrative. Time-lag considerations make decision-making challenging. It will be important to assess the impact of eliminating standardized tests in the context of ongoing trends in admissions, and planning for a formal review should begin soon.

3. Comprehensive Review Metrics

Members will consult with the local committees and report back as to whether changes to the Comprehensive Review metrics are needed.

**V. Further Discussion and New Business**

None.

Adjournment 11:50 am

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair

Wallace Cleaves, BOARS Vice Chair

Sophie Volpp, UCB

Christian Bohringer, UCD Alternate

Sergio Gago-Masague, UCI

Robert Watson, UCLA

Peter Sadler, UCR

Akos Rona-Tas, UCSD

Josh Berke, UCSF

Greg Mitchell, UCSB

Laura Giuliano, UCSC