

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

January 8, 2021

I. Announcements

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

1. Feasibility Study

The working group recommendation to explore a modified test conditional upon equity outcomes was passed to the steering committee. The steering committee recommendation aligned with the working groups: further study of the Smarter Balanced Assessment. SBA includes Common Core curricular assessment, is criterion-referenced with high school curricula based on knowledge and skills, and is already in many California high schools. High stakes testing considerations remain a concern. President Drake's decision is expected soon.

II. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

- Feasibility study: President Drake and Provost Brown have not yet indicated their responses to the steering committee recommendation. Additional study may require additional resources.
- Systemwide Human Resources: An external review of systemwide human resources is underway, and UCFW's Health Care Task Force is the Senate's lead liaison. Longstanding issues remain unresolved, especially in retirement services. A transition group is also expected to be formed, and the Senate awaits its formal invitation. Members noted that the role of UC Health in the administration of benefits should be a top concern.
- Campus safety: Systemwide online safety symposia are being organized by UCOP, and announcements should be forthcoming.
- Campus reopening: Campus announcements are expected soon, but must comply with county health guidelines.
- State budget: The governor is set to release a preliminary budget later today, reflecting more tax revenue than was expected. UC has submitted several one-time funding requests. The final budget will not be released until May, but lobbying must occur soon. Campuses should also get access to federal COVID relief funds, but worsening campus differentials are a concern to many.

Members noted that some COVID relief funds should go to rewarding faculty who have gone above and beyond during the pandemic. Some have suggested extra sabbatical credits as one means of recognition/compensation.

- Transfer: The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates continues its work to clarify and ease the transfer pathway.
- Writing requirement: A task force is being formed to assess the efficacy of the Entry Level Writing Requirement.
- Climate crisis: UC's Global Climate Leadership Committee has planning funds for "shovel ready" programs, and seeks options beyond carbon neutrality.

III. 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 options to increase applicants to attend their campus of choice, especially if it is geographically proximate. Efforts should focus on low-sending schools, low socio-economic status neighborhoods, and under-resourced schools; it is hoped that UCOP can help identify these groups. Increasing ELC guarantees relevant to admission could also have positive outcomes. Downstream success data would strengthen any effort, as would qualitative data to help debunk concerns raised about mismatching or undermatching students and campuses. Capacity concerns remain, and resources for additional outreach will be necessary.

IV. Systemwide Review Item

1. Presidential Policy on UC Research Data and Tangible Research Materials
Michael Stryker UCSF will serve as lead reviewer.

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. Statewide Eligibility Index
BOARS is asked to select a new basis for the statewide eligibility index, absent standardized test scores. Alternate models could include more emphasis on GPA, A-G course completion/grades, honors courses/grades, normalized to the graduating class or the applicant pool. An emphasis on equitable outcomes for diverse populations is predicated. Academic preparation should remain the focus of the index. Variability in local practices regarding grading, annual honors course caps, and the availability of advanced coursework must be kept in mind.

BOARS unanimously voted that the new Statewide Eligibility Index shall be based on High School GPA + Number of A-G courses completed in grades 9-11 and expected in grade 12.

2. CSU Ethnic Studies and IGETC

Although completion of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) is not required of incoming transfer students to UC and CSU, it is helpful. More important for UC is major preparation. BOARS considers various options for integrating an ethnic studies requirement into IGETC: a stand-alone requirement (new IGETC subject area) or a designation requirement (required course from within an existing IGETC subject area that is cross-listed with ethnic studies). Many feel that a broad base of entry would benefit more students.

BOARS voted to endorse creation of a new IGETC area 7 to align with the CSU's plans, and to proceed with an overlay approach. Specifically, ethnic studies designated courses must first be approved in an existing IGETC subject area (e.g., area 4-social and behavioral sciences; area 3-arts and humanities) and then must meet relevant ethnic studies course criteria to count for the new area 7-ethnic studies requirement. Proposed course criteria are to be determined by a UC ethnic studies faculty workgroup.

3. P/NP and "Credit" Grades

Some high schools continue using pass/no pass or credit/no credit grades this school year, while others think letter grades allow more specificity and granularity. Letter grades have been more flexible during COVID, though. Campus admission directors support the continuation of waiving the letter grade requirement for A-G courses, but note that the need for academic support for the COVID-era matriculates will be greater than for other cohorts. They also note that justification of admission decisions will be more difficult when some applicants supply Pass grades not used in a GPA while others have letter grades for inclusion in the GPA. Some suggest BOARS make a recommendation for letter grades in English and math. Eligibility will not change, but the importance of the application and its evaluation will. Adding a COVID-specific impact question is not recommended as it would increase the length of the application for all applicants and all readers; the additional comments field should suffice.

BOARS will extend through the summer of 2021 the temporary waiver of Senate Regulation 424.B.1, thus allowing non-letter grades for fulfilling the A-G course requirement.

4. Tribal Membership and Comprehensive Review

With Liz Yap, UC Legal

Counsel joined to answer questions relating to the legal treatment of membership in a federally recognized tribe, which in some circumstances is deemed a political rather than a racial/ethnic category.

The current BOARS reaffirms the 2008 BOARS position of including federally-recognized tribal membership as one of many acceptable considerations in undergraduate admissions under comprehensive review selection criterion #13. This usage is consistent with the stated goals of both BOARS and the University.

VI. Campus Updates

UCLA: 1) An ad hoc report for special talent admissions is forthcoming. 2) Due to the high volume of domestic non-resident and international student applications, one read only has been proposed.

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

Jose Marquez Cuevas, Undergraduate Student Representative