

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

June 2, 2023

I. Chair's Announcements

*Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair*1. General Updates

- The Academic Council met, and among other topics, discussed: 1) AB 928 implementation, which calls for more acceptance by UC of the Associate Degrees for Transfer developed to facilitate transfer between the California Community Colleges (CCCs) and the California State University (CSU) system, but many of these transfer degrees do not include coursework appropriate for enrollment in the UC. That other legislation has “capped” the unit maximum for ADTs further precludes certain majors from aligning. 2) Provost Newman has renewed calls for greater online access to the university. Enrollment goals and revenue concerns are also components of the discussion, as are down-stream impacts to the CSU if UC enrollment drastically increases. 3) The University Committee on Education Policy (UCEP) noted concerns regarding accreditation standards and online courses – “correspondence courses” do not carry student FTE designation, and so course content must be monitored closely. The push to develop fully online majors and degrees impacts this conversation, and must be weighed against recent Senate actions clarifying the residency requirement for undergraduates. Members speculated that degrees conferred via different modalities might indicate the type of delivery and that admissions process for different types of degrees might differ, as well. Questions of scale and questions of quality have been noted. 4) New options to fulfill the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) will soon be conveyed to the campuses.
- The Academic Assembly ratified UCSF Professor Steve Cheung as the new Academic Council Vice Chair for 2023-24.

2. Other Committees

- The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) met, and highlights for BOARS include 1) the finalization of Cal-GETC. Alignment of writing requirements, for example, are still on the list of issues that will need further consultation. 2) Implementation of AB 1705, which precludes the CCCs from offering non-transferable courses, has raised concerns about math preparation, specifically intermediate algebra, which will no longer be offered at community colleges. If students are placed into courses that are too advanced for them, academic and diversity outcomes could be negatively impacted, as well as time to degree.

II. Consultation with Admission Directors and Associate Vice Chancellors for Admission and Consultation with the Office of the President – Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs

1. Compare Favorably

Fall 2022 data are being reviewed. Preliminary indications are that unweighted GPA meets standards, but GPA is not necessarily reflective of the caliber of student.

The potential California Comparable GPA was described, and the possibility of research support arose. The possible unintended consequence of normalizing the grading variability of California high schools through the project should be considered, as should the possible negative impact on non-resident enrollment. International schools seem to show the most variability. It could be useful as an *ex post facto* explanatory tool for the Compare Favorably standard, but it may not be helpful in Comprehensive Review. The need for consistency across campuses was also noted.

2. Artificial Intelligence and Personal Insight Questions

The importance of the PIQs to Comprehensive Review should not be underestimated. Faculty leadership regarding how to adapt to a rapidly changing environment is needed. Since technology will continue to improve, how to determine human creativity versus “bot language will be critical. Some wondered whether chat AI was fundamentally different than calculators, and others noted that ghost writing was already a known issue. Some wondered if there were other ways to capture the lived-experience information sought through the PIQs, aside from stressing that the intention of the PIQs is not to assess writing ability. Access issues to latest generation technology should be factored into decision-making. Application verification audits, such as plagiarism detection, will continue. Maintaining up-to-date reader training will continue to be needed.

3. Math Preparation

BOARS considers questions about data science courses and Algebra II preparation. How to advise students early in their course-taking should be clear. Concerns about adequate math preparation have been conveyed by the campuses previously, and have been shared in newspaper opinion pieces and reporting. Some suggest that math preparation concerns go beyond data science courses and are long-standing. If data science courses continue to proliferate in lower-resourced schools, or replace other advanced math courses in any schools, additional negative impacts to student success and diversity outcomes could result. Advanced math is important in many social sciences, and students continue to change majors, so broad preparation seems wise. Admissions Directors stressed that they did not want UCOP to use language describing “STEM” majors in counselling students. They were asked whether language such as “STEM and quantitative social science majors” would be adequate in giving guidance regarding math preparation. The Admissions Directors rejected this language and said that to categorize students at this point in their trajectories is premature given the degree to which students switch majors. They emphasized that ALL students should be counselled to take Algebra II. How to convey the difference between additional math courses versus those that validate advanced math concepts could be further clarified. Further clarifying any distinctions between data science content and statistics content might also be useful.

It was resolved that BOARS will continue discussion of adequate math preparation, including geometry.

III. **BOARS Business**

1. Area C Concerns (Continued)

Note: See Item II, 3 above.

2. Credit by Examination

Note: Item not addressed.

3. Campus Updates

UCSB: 1) Enrollment in impacted majors continues to be a topic of discussion. A proposed strategy is being internally reviewed. 2) Wait list-ed applicants and admission appeals are being reviewed. 3) A lack of transfer applicants has raised concerns about meeting the 2:1 enrollment goal.

UCB: The committee focused on Area H and Area C concerns.

UCSC: Enrollment into impacted majors was again a focus of discussion.

UCM: How to help students with institutional debt and a moratorium on debt collection are on-going discussions.

UCSD: 1) The committee discussed Area H and Area C concerns. 2) The pressure to increase enrollment is increasingly intense. 3) Concern over funding for graduate students and teaching assistants has impacted enrollment discussions.

UCLA: 1) TAG discussions continue, but the campus has achieved the 2:1 enrollment ratio. 2) Area C was discussed. 3) An update on talent-based admissions was received. Not all indicator outcomes were achieved. 4) HSI certification is in process. It is hoped that such a distinction will positively impact diversity outcomes.

UCI: The committee discussed Area H and Area C.

UCD: 1) An update on enrollment outcomes was received. 2) Area H and Area C concerns were discussed.

UCR: 1) Enrollment targets were reviewed. 2) How to improve academic advising and decrease academic probation were discussed.

4. Ethnic Studies Implementation Work Group Update

With Christine Hong, ESIWG Co-Chair

Academic Council Vice Chair Steintrager outlined the next steps in this policy review process. Professor Hong reviewed the development and review process the current draft has undergone, noting that specific member concerns were addressed.

The position that BOARS could re-vote and that it need not continue down the path of establishing an additional admission requirement for UC, but instead could lead by providing college-prep level standards on which high school districts could base their state-mandated, required-for-graduation ethnic studies courses, should they so choose, was reiterated. The potential impact of what could be perceived as backtracking by UC in this area was noted. That the state mandate also requires school districts to offer ethnic studies courses in 2025, despite the graduation requirement not going into effect until the 29-30 school year, should underscore the importance of BOARS taking clear action soon. It was also noted that in several subjects, UC already sets higher standards for preparation/admission than those in state high school

graduation requirement standards. How non-residents could fulfill a new requirement, when their state has banned such education, is unclear. That non-residents are not subject to eligibility requirements, but still undergo Comprehensive Review, was again noted.

Other members reiterated the call for more information regarding school districts' abilities to implement either a UC requirement or college-prep level courses: resources, both financial and human, need to be assessed; the alignment gap of current courses to proposed standards – and the resources needed for alignment – need to be assessed; the ability of students to complete an additional requirement needs to be understood. The on-going social critique regarding the role religion plays in ethnic studies was again noted. More inclusive language about “racialized minorities,” added to “Indigenous peoples” and “people of color” was offered and rejected by the Working Group.

Academic Council Vice Chair Steintrager proposed that BOARS vote to endorse the draft course criteria for an Area H admission requirement as developed by the Ethnic Studies

Implementation Working Group so that those criteria can be used by UCOP to gather additional course articulation information for BOARS' future consideration. After such subsequent review, BOARS will consider submission of a recommendation to the Academic Council. Vice Chair

Cleaves said that he had been asked to call for a roll-call vote:

UCB: Abstained

UCD: Aye

UCI: Aye

UCLA: Aye

UCM: Aye

UCR: Aye

UCSD: Nay

UCSF: Nay

UCSB: Aye (via email)

UCSC: Aye

Chair: Aye

Vice Chair: Aye

IV. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Jim Steintrager, Academic Council Vice Chair

Note: Item not addressed.

V. Further Discussion and New Business

None.

Adjournment: 4:05 pm

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

Jay Stachowicz, UCD

Sergio Gago-Masague, UCI

Rob Watson, UCLA

Charlie Eaton, UCM

Pete Sadler, UCR

Akos Rona-Tas, UCSD

Josh Berke, UCSF

Greg Mitchell, UCSB

Laura Giuliano, UCSC