

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Meeting

March 3, 2023

I. Chair's Announcements*Barbara Knowlton, BOARS Chair*1. Consent Calendar: Minutes of February 3, 2023

Note: Item not discussed.

2. General Updates

- The Academic Council continues to discuss the aftermath of the strike, both to finances and to enrollment. What can remain flexible and what must be standardized are still in question. Accounting and accountability will be emphasized moving forward. Members noted that guidance is needed immediately given the grant calendar and budget caps. Greater faculty inclusion is needed at every stage of this process.
- Revisions to the Entry Level Writing Requirement will go to the Academic Assembly for formal adoption.
- The new Cal-GETC represents compromises by each segment of California higher education. CSU compromised on the “lifelong learning” requirement, leading to concern at the CCCs regarding the future of those who teach lifelong learning courses, and UC compromised on the language-other-than-English requirement. The impacts of these changes will be closely monitored, but data may not be available anytime soon.

II. Consultation with the Office of the President – Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs*Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions**Chase Fischerhall, Director, A-G and Transfer Policy Analysis and Coordination**Tongshan Chang, Director, IRAP*1. TAG Data

In light of external pressure, the Senate has been asked to consider creating a transfer guarantee similar to that offered by CSU. In part, this action is a response to budget trailer bill language calling on UCLA to adopt TAGs. Currently, six undergraduate campuses participate in the TAG program. Most majors are available, and most GPA requirements are between 2.7 and 3.5. High-achieving students are often admitted to a campus to which they did not TAG. The TAG participant population is less diverse than the general transfer population, and TAG

participation highly correlates with “high sending” CCCs. TAG participants typically have a shorter time to degree and higher graduate rates than the general transfer population. TAGs can be beneficial to campuses that want to increase the number of transfer students but would make enrollment planning very difficult at campuses that already enroll large numbers of transfer students.

2. Duolingo Pilot Revisions

Duolingo is an assessment tool for English proficiency for non-native speakers, similar to TOEFL. Duolingo has completed a three-year pilot, and BOARS is asked to approve the test on a permanent basis. Members asked about data collection, regular verification, and the market landscape. While several competitors are in the market, UC’s internal data verifies the efficacy of Duolingo. Program performance is evaluated on a regular basis.

- BOARS unanimously endorsed the proposal to make Duolingo a permanent option.

III. **Consultation with the Office of the President – State Governmental Relations**

Kathleen Fullerton, Deputy Director

Seija Virtanen, Associate Director

Deputy Fullerton provided an overview of State Governmental Relations (SGR) operations, including how it approaches topics behind the scenes. In the current session, there are nearly 180 bills that could impact UC.

Members asked how proposed legislation is evaluated. Several systemwide departments assist, including Human Resources, UC Legal, Academic Personnel and Programs, and more. SGR also investigates to see if bill sponsors/funders have multiple aims.

Members asked how SGR interacts with admission directors and enrollment management leads, noting the likelihood of cascading impacts of proposed legislation. In addition to enrollment displacement, changes from proposed legislation could negatively impact diversity outcomes. The Provost and Senate leadership are working to improve communications here.

Some external voices continue to call for universal Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs), a program created by legislative mandate to facilitate transfer from the CCCs to CSU. Academic preparation considerations prevent UC from adopting ADTs, but this argument has not persuaded critics who want a set number of uniform courses. Lack of course availability at the CCCs impedes UC’s academic preparation message and goal. Not all think a guarantee to the system will suffice, but only a guarantee to the campus of choice.

IV. **BOARS Business**

1. General Campus Updates

LA: 1) The local committee is monitoring changes to athletics admits. 2) More metrics for application reviews may be considered. 3) Math preparation concerns persist. 4) Transfer issues persist. 5) Review of the changes to the Senate’s admission regulations revealed some

parallel construction errors, but no content concerns. 6) Planning for an ethnic studies discussion is underway.

SE: The campus continues not to admit undergraduates.

D: 1) The local committee is also planning for an ethnic studies discussion. 2) The local admission staff will join the next meeting to provide a preliminary report on admission outcomes.

I: 1) The local committee will meet with the ethnic studies work group soon. 2) Math preparation concerns have been conveyed via memo. 3) Changes to athletics admits will be closely monitored. 4) Some remain concerned that self-reported data, absent standardized tests, will skew the Comprehensive Review process.

SD: 1) The proposed anti-discrimination policy was discussed. 2) The committee began its ethnic studies deliberations. 3) Transfer student success is a concern. 4) Math preparation is a growing concern.

SC: 1) Selection of first-year students, especially for impacted majors, is difficult given limited metrics. 2) Math preparation concerns are rising. 3) A discussion on ethnic studies is upcoming.

B: 1) Some are concerned about the lack of data for first-year applicants. 2) Concerns about ChatGPT, et al, are becoming more common. 3) An ethnic studies discussion is upcoming. 4) Math preparation concerns have led some to propose a new remedial math course. 5) Some students do not seem to be reporting pre-high school completion of Algebra or geometry courses on the application website.

M: 1) Misalignment between enrollment deadlines/dates and financial aid submission deadlines/dates seems to be adding to UC student debt. The campus is pausing internal debt collection efforts for three years to explore various options. Many hope to ban collections programs that can allow for tax refund seizures and the like. Pending state legislation would help students in all three high education segments. 2) The campus is under pressure to grow its enrollment, but academic and faculty planning are needed, not just commensurate resources. 3) Public Service Loan Forgiveness program outreach by a faculty-led Student Debt Challenge helped as many as 11,000 UC community members access the program.

SB: 1) The WASC accreditation report is being reviewed. Impacted majors are a concern, but additional resources are not forthcoming. 2) Faculty who are concerned about math preparation are well-organized and vocal. 3) The campus supports Duolingo. 4) Meeting the 2:1 transfer enrollment ratio is a concern.

R: 1) Admission office funding may be jeopardy. 2) Changes to transfer enrollment are viewed with wariness given all the recent upheaval whose impacts are yet to be fully known.

2. Transfer Issues

With Jim Chalfant, Chair, Academic Council Special Committee on Transfer Issues (ACSCOTI)

With Onuttom Narayan, Vice Chair, ACSCOTI

In response to calls to simplify the transfer process, BOARS considers a transfer guarantee similar to the first-year guarantee which relies on a referral pool. Members wondered if better web interfaces could help improve the process, but certain external critics want a one-size-fits-all approach, not a nuanced approach. Many transfer students have limits on how far they are willing or able to relocate. CCC communications and outreach can be improved. High- and low-sending CCCs often have different educational foci. The likelihood of more legislative requests

in the future probably grows unless compromises are made now. Some wonder if TAGs are more or less complicated than Pathways.

- BOARS unanimously approved draft language and conceptual approach to a systemwide transfer guarantee.

3. Area C Concerns

Changes made by BOARS to Area C (mathematics) in 2020 have come under scrutiny as reports of math under-preparation, especially among students from underrepresented groups, are being attributed to students not following the traditional Algebra II/Calculus course progression, but instead taking Data Science courses. Data to assess this claim may not be entirely available. The change was made to match Common Core guidelines and with the hopes of increasing access, recognizing that the Calculus path may not be necessary academic preparation for all majors and recognizing the increasing variety of 11th and 12th grade mathematics offerings at California high schools. Members suggested that the previous BOARS' decision may have been rushed, and that more information is needed before any further changes are made. Members are encouraged to get details from concerned colleagues, and BOARS will return to this topic at a future meeting.

V. Further Discussion and New Business

None.

Adjournment: 2:30 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

John Stachowicz, UCD

Sergio Gago Masague, UCI

Robert Watson, UCLA

Charlie Eaton, UCM

Peter Sadler, UCR

Akos Rona-Tas, UCSD

Joshua Berke, UCSF

Greg Mitchell, UCSB

Laura Giuliano, UCSC