

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

March 5, 2021

I. Announcements

None.

II. Systemwide Review Items

1. Proposed Revisions to Universitywide Police Policies and Administrative Procedures (the “Gold Book”)
Item deferred.

III. Campus Updates

UCB: 1) The faculty committee that reviews admission files is finding a lack of information in them. 2) Diversity outcomes in the Letters and Sciences computer science major are being compared to those in engineering. Long-standing coding decisions may be having unintended consequences.

UCD: Updates from the admissions office are eagerly awaited.

UCI: 1) Proposed revisions to local Senate Bylaw 137, which governs admissions, are out for campus review. The proposed revisions would expand membership of the admission committee and add more oversight duties regarding the admission office. 2) Admission cycle outcomes are eagerly awaited as total applications, and applications from low socio-economic status students are also up.

UCLA: 1) This will be the campus’ most selective year ever due to the record number of applications received. 2) An ad hoc task force report on special talent admissions is being circulated locally.

UCM: Admissions updates are being processed, and secondary reviews and Admission by Exception reviews continue.

UCR: The campus will be test-free for the 22-23 cycles, too.

UCSD: Admissions data trends are promising for diversity outcomes.

UCSF: The campus continues not to admit undergraduates.

UCSB: Use of a new admission system this cycle led to many new readers and many more third reads than usual.

UCSC: 1) The campus is implementing remediation steps following the state audit. 2) Engineering seeks more autonomy in admissions decisions. 3) There is debate about whether to change from single-score holistic review to multiple scores for better granularity.

Graduate Student: Many have concerns about financial aid processes and communications, especially first generation students and those from low socio-economic backgrounds. How income will be reported and verified for 2020 is under scrutiny. Expanded appeals processes are suggested, as well as pro-active communication strategies.

IV. 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. Admission by Examination

Additional data are being collected and analyzed. Discussion will continue next month.

2. ELC and Online Schools

BOARS is asked whether and how online schools should be counted in “local context” decisions. There has been a proliferation of online schools and growing acceptance of online instruction and distance learning. Further, the state audit noted that UC excluded many California high schools from ELC consideration. Eligible schools must be accredited, located in California, have a College Board/ATP code, and have at least the minimum 15 A-G courses on their approved course list for the most recent academic year. Members asked for more data on the profile of online schools and their students, as well as more information about how the “digital divide” impacts diversity outcomes.

➤ BOARS will follow-up electronically to expedite deliberations.

3. Tribal Membership and Comprehensive Review

With Liz Yap, Senior Counsel, UC Legal

BOARS is asked to reaffirm and streamline guidelines for consideration of membership in federally recognized Native American tribes in Comprehensive Review. Counsel joined to discuss the legal treatment of such membership, which in some circumstances is deemed a political rather than a racial/ethnic category. UC also has a presidential-level Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) advisory committee in place to consider issues impacting Native American tribes more generally.

➤ BOARS will revise its guidance and post the revisions online.

4. Area C Policy Implementation

Recent calls to allow students greater flexibility in fulfilling mathematics requirements are receiving national attention, especially where data science is included. UC may soon be called upon to develop new academic preparation and admissions policies that support multiple math course sequences for college readiness.

5. IGETC and Ethnic Studies

The UC faculty working group has convened and is working to align UC's core competencies in ethnic studies with the CSU requirement. To address the proposed new IGETC ethnic studies requirement for UC, relevant Academic Senate Regulations will need to be revised to be conforming, and those changes require full UC systemwide Senate review.

6. Dual Enrollment Pilot

A pilot is being developed by GUEA to expand dual enrollment programs in California to help address equity gaps. Under dual enrollment, a student is enrolled at two institutions simultaneously, in this case, a high school and a local college. Through the pilot program, Title I high school students will be able to enroll in online/hybrid courses from top-tier higher education institutions (e.g., HBCUs, Ivy League campuses). The pilot would include tutors and online coaches for students and teachers at their California school site. UC's Innovative Learning Technology Initiative (ILTI) has been suggested as one avenue for UC to partner in the planned pilot. The funding model is still under development.

7. SBAC and UC Applicants

Preliminary data assessing how many UC applicants meet SBAC standards were presented. Additional metrics should include admission rate overlays, and GPA overlays. Because data on SBAC is relatively new, UC outcomes in relation to SBA data are only a snapshot at present, not longitudinal. Further, Fall 2016 was an unusual admission year due to the introduction of a revised SAT and significant increase in state-funded enrollment.

8. Legislative Update

With Tyler Aguilar, Legislative Director, State Government Relations

Up to 11 admissions-related bills have been introduced in the California legislature so far this year. Most result from the state audit of UC admissions, but others are COVID-related, and still others seek to address long-standing equity issues, such as increasing opportunities for (formerly) incarcerated individuals.

V. Consultation with the Provost

Michael T. Brown, Provost

1. Access and Equity Concerns

UC continues to explore ways to improve diversity outcomes. How "disadvantage" can be quantified and reported without stigmatization is unclear. Census data is assessed by block at some campuses, but it remains difficult to achieve a critical mass of underrepresented and/or low socio-economic background students in the applicant pool to yield different outcomes. Systemic legacies complicate any solution. And every solution will have to be part of a suite of efforts since no single process will reach all target groups. Recruitment changes will be needed, as will more robust financial aid packages. Local flexibility must be retained since each campus faces unique challenges.

VI. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

- Feasibility Study: The administration has generated a work plan to explore the possibility of modifying the Smarter Balanced Assessment for UC admissions consideration. But they did not consult with the Senate first, and a follow-up meeting is scheduled to discuss Shared Governance in the process going forward. Members noted that it seems unlikely that even a modified test could be achieved in just 3-4 years.
- Budget: Better than expected tax returns have allowed most cuts to the UC budget to be restored by the state. Concerns about line items remain, though.
- COVID Impacts: Discussions about vaccinations and reopening in the fall occur daily in multiple venues. The level of Shared Governance in these discussions seems to vary widely. Faculty concerns about workload, advancement, morale and stress, are not being addressed in conversations that focus on mathematical models for immunity. Additionally, student mental health and support services are not addressed in such discussions. Members noted that hybrid instructional delivery is onerous on faculty. Asynchronous delivery doubles the workload in many instances, but compensation is not comparatively adjusted. Enumeration of faculty rights during reopening is needed. Staffing shortages domino, and impact students and faculty negatively. Although the situation remains fluid, faculty involvement in planning discussions is needed across the board.
- Innovative Learning Technology Initiative Review: How ILTI can best contribute to the future of UC instructional delivery is under assessment. Helping address impacted majors and time to degree seem like good options for concrete goals.
- Campus Safety: A second systemwide symposium will occur soon. The focus is expected to be on best practices.
- Comprehensive Access: How and under what circumstances UC medical centers should partner with private hospitals, especially those with religious affiliations, is under discussion at the Regents. Action is now expected in May, and the Academic Council will consider whether to re-endorse the Senate's incumbent position.

VII. GUEA Consultation (continued)

Note: See above.

VIII. Further Discussion

None.

Adjournment: 4:05 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