University of California   **Academic Senate**

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

Minutes of Meeting

May 7, 2021

I.   **Announcements**

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

- The A-G Ethnic Studies Working Group held its first, introductory meeting.
- Council Chair Gauvain and BOARS Vice Chair Sorapure will lead the next steps of the Feasibility Study to determine whether SBAC can be modified for use in UC eligibility and admission decisions. The group's charge is still being developed, but they have been given a six-month deadline.
- The Analytical Writing Placement Examination will be given online later this month, but four campuses are using their own placement mechanisms.

II.   **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 search for new strategies to admit high achieving students from under-resourced schools or students with multiple disadvantages. These students also need encouragement to apply to UC campuses. Using a combination of ELC and LCFF+ addresses some of these concerns, but more data is still needed. In addition to adequate academic preparation, UC seeks students with potential who would benefit most from a UC education. Many think that better student support services on campus are essential to maximizing the potential of these students. Resources will be needed no matter the strategy.

III.   **Systemwide Review Items**
- Proposed Presidential Policy: Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration
- Proposed SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Program Policy
  - ➢ BOARS elected not to opine on either item.

IV.   **Campus Updates**

UCB: 1) Faculty norming sessions of high/low files have yielded good feedback and changes to how marginal decisions are made. 2) Equity outcomes in the College of Letters and Sciences Computer Science major are still under scrutiny. Additional prerequisites are under discussion.

UCD: Access and major choice are under discussion, as impacted majors are having domino consequences. No assessment of second major choices has been undertaken.

UCI: 1) The committee is monitoring SIR outcomes. 2) Proposed revisions to the campus committee bylaw are going to the local Assembly. 3) Future organization of the enrollment management group is under evaluation.

UCLA: 1) Preliminary enrollment trends are positive, showing increases in both diversity outcomes and first-generation numbers. 2) Engineering student success in the test-free environment will be closely monitored.

UCM: 1) Admission by Exception recommendations are undergoing faculty committee review. 2) Debt free pathways are being discussed as a mechanism to increase graduation rates.

UCR: 1) SIR outcomes are being closely monitored. 2) Planning for the transition to holistic review continues.

UCSD: Local discussions have focused on access issues.

UCSF: The campus is still not admitting undergraduates.

UCSB: 1) A detailed analysis for SIRs and diversity outcomes will be conducted this year. 2) Enrollment management concerns have led some to suggest that all undeclared majors be assigned to Letters and Sciences.

UCSC: Local discussions have focused on responding to the state auditor's requests.

Graduate Student: An analysis of summer melt data is desired.

V.   Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair

- Feasibility Study: BOARS Vice Chair Sorapure and Council Chair Gauvain will co-chair a faculty work group over the summer. Members are being recruited.
- Reopening: The Council-endorsed recommendations have been sent to all campuses, and faculty should expect to be included in planning discussions to remind administrators that classroom spaces are different from research and performance spaces and that enforcement should not fall on faculty shoulders.
- Online Teaching Survey: A Senate-sponsored instructor survey has been sent to the division chairs for wide distribution. Data will be needed in future conversations regarding instructional delivery.

- Comprehensive Access: A modified version of opposition to affiliations with hospitals that abide religious restrictions to care has been floated at the Regents.
- Campus Safety: Administration statements and written documents seem to be out-of-step, but re-revisions are promised.
- Academic Freedom: UC is now responsible for the content shared over its Zoom broadcasts, barring certain national security topics which remain prohibited.
- Data Breach: The UC community is responding to a serious data breach impacting students, faculty, staff, and their families. Experian credit monitoring is available for free, and a new help line is soon to launch.
- Academic Integrity: Online courses have increased the risk of cheating, and online course facilitators like Chegg and CourseHero have been slow to respond.
- Admissions Audit Responses: The level of specificity requested by the auditor suggests that the office thinks of applicants as widgets that can be assessed by a single, universal metric or formula, but such is not the case. Asking campuses to disclose how and why they value different characteristics as they do could easily lead to gaming of the system, especially by those with means.
  - ➢ BOARS will communicate to the Academic Council the need to support local admission office discretion, despite external pressure.

VI.   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. Personal Insight Questions
   With Stanford Student Narrative Lab representatives AJ Alvarez, anthony antonio, Ben Domingue, and Mitchell Stevens
   The Stanford researchers presented an overview of their findings, which were derived from automated readings of PIQ responses. Automated readers are good for sorting information, but not for evaluating it. Question selection patterns by applicants from low socio-economic backgrounds raise concerns about unintended reader bias. The goal should be to learn about the applicant, not to grade for the perfect essay. Additional data would provide useful insights: acceptance rates, race/ethnicity, Compare Favorably metrics, and reader scores would provide more robust analysis, but could also raise privacy concerns.
   BOARS and the UCOP consultants continued discussion. Many thought that UC should be conducting its own analyses in-house in order to better direct research. BOARS should first determine what information it desires, and then ask IRAP or UC faculty to conduct the research/analysis.
2. Pre-admission verification and Plagiarism
   This is the close of the second year of a pilot program in which all PIQ responses were reviewed with plagiarism detection software. A common example of a flagged response is someone who

has reapplied, but used their prior responses. International students make up more than half of those flagged. The goal is to build as large a library as possible to allow as much comparative analysis as possible.

> ➢ BOARS supports continuation of the program, and will convey its support to the Academic Council.

3. <u>IGETC and Ethnic Studies Update</u>

BOARS is asked to review first recommendations from the IGETC ethnic studies working group, which based its proposed course criteria on core competencies developed by the CSU Council on Ethnic Studies. Members questioned certain verbiage referenced within the core competencies and requested further clarification of terms from the working group before advancing the recommendations for a vote of approval.

BOARS will continue discussion at its next meeting.

VII.   Further Discussion

None.

Adjournment: 3:20 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