

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Meeting

October 4, 2019

I. Consent Calendar

- Approval of BOARS October 4, 2019 agenda
Action: The agenda was approved as noticed.

II. Announcements

Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

1. Introductions
2. Overview of continuing issues
 - Pathways+: This effort to facilitate transfer to UC from the California Community Colleges (CCCs) started with an MOU signed between President Napolitano and CCC Chancellor Ortiz-Oakley. The Pathways were first crafted by UC faculty to identify needed coursework for transfer into the 21 most popular majors at UC campuses. Pathways+ builds on these Pathways and incorporates Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGs) to a single campus. Pathways+ require more rigorous coursework than a TAG, though, and enhance the likelihood of a successful application to any UC, not just the TAG campus. Campuses are reviewing their TAG requirements to ensure adequate academic preparation, and Pathway course articulation at the CCCs is increasing.
The UC Office of the President (UCOP) is working on messaging and media campaign. Development of Pathways+ revealed a significant gap in CCC student and counselor awareness of UC transfer options.
Additional quantitative studies assessing low-sending CCCs, underrepresented group enrollment, and how students approach alternatives to impacted majors are needed to inform future decision-making.
 - Standardized Testing Task Force (STTF): The Academic Council charged the STTF to assess the use of standardized tests in UC admissions. They are expected to finish their work early in 2020 and issue recommendations for systemwide evaluation. BOARS Chair Comeaux is co-chair of STTF, and UCSF Representative Hasenstaub is an at-large member.

Last spring, BOARS recommended to the Academic Council that the SAT and ACT writing tests no longer be requirements for admission, and that recommendation will go for systemwide review at the same time as the STTF recommendations.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair

- The Regents held a retreat in September, and as Faculty Representatives to the Regents, Chair Bhavnani and Vice Chair Gauvain also attended. Highlights included a session on implicit bias and report on the Master Plan, which unfortunately did not emphasize research and high academic standards. Given the number of new Regents appointed by Governor Brown, how the board will govern remains to be seen.
- The Regents are still considering a proposal to increase employee contributions to the pension plan following changes to the plan assumptions over the summer.
- A policy to govern enrollment, teaching, and awarding of degrees to incarcerated students is being developed.
- President Napolitano has empaneled a Working Group on Comprehensive Access to healthcare following the recent furor over proposed alliances with religious-based hospital systems. They have been given a 90-day deadline to issue their recommendations.
- After the “Varsity Blues” admission scandal, UC undertook an internal audit of admission procedures. See below. The state will soon follow.
- A task force to revise guidelines for UC’s compliance with the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) has been formed. Legislative compliance and UC autonomy are being balanced.
- Negotiations with Elsevier continue.
- A new vice president for research and innovation is being recruited. Several multi-campus research units (MRUs) are up for review this year; reviews will focus on funding flow and participation.
- A general obligation (GO) bond has been approved for the March ballot. Capital projects and seismic retrofitting are the stated targets of the \$2B UC stands to gain from the measure, but UC needs many times more to address identified physical plant needs.
- UCPath efficiency and operations are being scrutinized prior to the “go live” of the remaining campuses.
- The Regents will consider a co-hort tuition proposal for undergraduates in November.

- Workload and timeline concerns have arisen surrounding the Sexual Violence/Sexual Harassment (SVSH) policy. Privilege and Tenure is working with UCOP.
- An air quality working group will be formed by UCOP.
- An online degree task force will be formed by the Senate.
- A joint task force on increasing faculty diversity will begin work soon.
- Each campus should now have a faculty equity advisor.

IV. Systemwide Review Items

Note: Item not addressed.

V. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Student Affairs

Yvette Gullatt, Interim Vice President Student Affairs

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Director, Undergraduate Admissions

Monica Lin, Director, Academic Preparation and Relations with Schools and Colleges

Tongshan Chang, Manager, Institutional Research and Academic Planning

1. Admissions Audit Update

With Alex Bustamante, Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance and Audit Officer

With Matt Hicks, Systemwide Deputy Audit Officer

With Rhonda Goldstein, Senior Counsel, UC Legal

With Charlie Goodrich, Paralegal Specialist, UC Legal

- Document Retention and Hold Notices: The state approved an audit in June to begin in January. Berkeley, Los Angeles, and San Diego are expected to receive the majority of scrutiny. Admission by Exception will be one focus of the state. Some UC policies have not been updated in many years, which could be problematic. Resident and Non-resident evaluation practices will be studied, and admission/recruiter interactions with external entities will be assessed. Some campuses have already received hold notices for documentation for the state audit and for the second phase of the internal audit, and Senate entities will receive them soon, too. Members are concerned about duplication of effort for the internal and state audits. UCOP hopes that the internal audit work will be viewed favorably by the state.
- Systemwide Verification: UC routinely randomly selects applications for documentation verification and follow-up. Resources dictate a small sample size, but due to the audits, the sample will be doubled this year, to 2000

applications. Also, UCOP would like to pilot a plagiarism check on application essays; an external partner is being solicited.

Members wondered if applicants would feel accused of cheating, so messaging will be important.

Action: BOARS endorsed the plagiarism pilot by a vote of 10-0-2.

- **Admission by Exception and AB 1383:** Assembly Bill 1383 calls on UC to revise its Admission by Exception (AbyE) policy to prevent such actions as taken during the “Varsity Blues” scandal. Some campuses seem to have conflated the goals of AbyE (to grant applicants missing one or two requirements admission) with “special skills” admits (athletes, artists, e.g.), so revised guidelines are timely. BOARS will meet with the campus admission directors next month, and will solicit their feedback on revisions, too. Members are mindful that transparency is often the best prevention.
2. **Online Admissions Resources:** The UC website has many useful items for applicants, counselors, and BOARS members: <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/>
 3. **Online Data Resources:** The IRAP website has many useful tools for counselors, BOARS members, and other researchers: <https://www.ucop.edu/institutional-research-academic-planning/content-analysis/index.html>
 4. **Area D Next Steps:** Last year, BOARS approved changes to the science requirement for high school applicants to UC: 1) broadening the approved course list, 2) renaming the requirement (striking “lab”), and 3) increasing the number of required courses from two with a third recommended to three required. The first two changes have already taken effect, but the provost raised concerns about differential impacts and access regarding the third change. Not all California high schools currently offer three qualifying courses, and some feel that potential applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds will self-deselect from applying given more academic requirements. The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) is collecting data on potential differential impacts of the changes, including a qualitative component intended to assess if the change will dissuade potential applicants. The PPIC findings are expected later this fall.
 5. **College Board “Landscape”:** The College Board, who administers the SAT, released this dashboard as a free service for now. It is intended to provide neighborhood level data on college applicants. Not all are convinced that soft factors can be quantified, and social forces are famously difficult to trace.

VI. Campus Reports

Berkeley: Three diversity task forces, admission, outreach, and campus climate, will soon close. Ways to optimize their findings will be sought.

Davis: The local committee is discussing audit outcomes and best practices for holistic review.

Irvine: 1) Relationship building with the admission office continues. 2) Enrollment planning for impacted majors has begun.

Los Angeles: 1) A special talent admission task force has been formed. One goal is to decouple AbyE and special talent considerations. 2) Relationship building with the athletics admission team is underway.

Merced: The campus is beginning to encounter impacted majors, so best practices are sought.

Riverside: 1) Audit follow-up discussions are in progress. AbyE clarifications are awaited. 2) Non-resident enrollment growth targets are being developed.

San Diego: The campus is considering capacity-based enrollment for capped majors. Too many students declare “undeclared” and then cannot join certain majors.

San Francisco: Continues not to enroll undergraduates.

Santa Barbara: 1) Athletics admission processes are being reevaluated. 2) Pathways and TAGs are being clarified. 3) Application norming for readers is underway. 4) Addressing enrollment growth and academic planning is a priority for this year.

Santa Cruz: The local admission is looking to analyze census data by block to refine the definition of “disadvantaged.”

Graduate Student: Many campuses continue to have concerns about under-enrollment of African-American students.

Undergraduate Student: Issues surrounding diversity and climate are at the fore. Transfer student climate concerns are marked.

VII. Executive Session

Note: Item not addressed.

Adjournment: 4:00 pm

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Eddie Comeaux, BOARS Chair

Attendance:

Eddie Comeaux, Chair

Madeleine Sorapure, Vice Chair

Jabari Mahiri, UCB

Deborah Swenson, UCD

Susan Cohen-Cory, UCI

Barbara Knowlton, UCLA

Matt Hibbing, UCM

Sheldon Tan, UCR

Skip Pomeroy, UCSD

Andrea Hasenstaub, UCSF

Mike Gordon, UCSB

Juan Poblete, UCSC

Carlos Galan, Graduate Student Representative

Alexis Zaragoza, Undergraduate Student Representative