

**BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS
ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

The Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), in accordance with Senate Bylaw 145, is responsible for advising the President and appropriate Senate agencies on matters relating to admissions of undergraduate students and recommending to the Assembly the admissions criteria for undergraduate status.

During the 2004-05 academic year, the committee convened ten times which included a two-day meeting, a joint meeting with the CSU Admissions Advisory Council, and a joint meeting with the UC Admissions Directors and Vice Chancellors for Student Affairs. Additional business was conducted in subcommittee meetings, by teleconference, and by email. Highlights of the committee's activities and accomplishments are noted in this report.

Geographical Preferences

BOARS examined issues surrounding the use of geographic preferences in admissions, and specifically whether local geographic preferences are permissible under UC's policies for undergraduate admissions. During BOARS' examination, it became apparent that interpretations of Selection Criterion #14 of the University's "Guidelines for Implementation of University Policy on Undergraduate Admissions" might be problematic. To clarify the intent of the criterion, on October 15 BOARS adopted a "Position Statement on Admissions Selection Criterion #14 and Geographical Preferences," which reaffirms the goal of providing geographic diversity among admittees while explicitly excluding geographical preferences based on proximity to a campus.

National Merit Scholarship Program

The committee began an independent investigation into the National Merit Scholarship Program (NMSP) in October. As a result of this review, BOARS identified serious educational concerns regarding the NMSP's selection procedures. In March BOARS issued letters to local campus admissions committees to notify them of the results of the investigation and to request that all UC campuses reconsider any admissions preferences they may be giving to applicants solely because of their designation as National Merit Scholars. BOARS also requested the assistance of the Academic Council Chair in asking the appropriate Senate agencies and administrative officials to evaluate the appropriateness of UC's participation in the NMSP with respect to scholarship and financial aid policy. To more broadly inform the faculty of BOARS' concerns with the NMSP, Chair Michael T. Brown and Analyst Kimberly Peterson also wrote an article for the June issue of the *Senate Source*.

At its May 18 meeting, the Academic Council requested that BOARS draft a resolution on why UC should discontinue its participation in the NMSP. BOARS adopted a resolution on June 15 regarding the failure of the NMSP to meet UC's requirements for defining academic merit. The Academic Council concurred with BOARS' finding that "the available evidence is insufficient to support the use of standing in the National Merit

Scholarship Program either for determining UC admission or for offering merit-based scholarships at UC” and adopted the resolution at its June 22 meeting.

On July 13 the University officially announced that the six campuses (Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz) that provided funding for National Merit Scholarships would redirect that funding to other merit-based scholarships (e.g., Regents and Chancellor’s Scholarship Programs) beginning with the fall 2006 entering class. The decision was reached collectively by the chancellors in response to the Academic Council and BOARS resolution.

Strategic Reexamination of Admissions Policy

One of the tasks undertaken by the committee this year was to begin a strategic reexamination of UC’s eligibility and admissions policies and the role of these policies in relation to the University’s mission. BOARS held discussions regarding this topic at almost every committee meeting, and members drafted several documents to aid the committee in this policy reexamination process. The committee intends to continue its strategic reexamination of eligibility and admissions policy next year.

Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC)

BOARS was charged with conducting “a study of the effects of increasing the percentage of graduates from each California high school who are identified as Eligible in the Local Context” as part of the Academic Senate’s “Recommendations for Changes in Eligibility Criteria for Undergraduate Admissions” (adopted June 30, 2004). In response to this charge, BOARS has reviewed preliminary research studies from UCOP that examine: (1) the demographic characteristics of the pool of eligible students if the ELC percentage were increased while maintaining the overall UC eligibility rate of 12.5%; and (2) the behavioral impact of the ELC program. BOARS continues to study this issue and will examine further information, such as the college performance of ELC admits, next year.

Honors Level Bonus Grade Point Policy

Senate Regulation 424 currently allows a grade point advantage to be granted for a limited number of “honors level” courses (i.e., UC-certified honors courses, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and transferable college courses) in the calculation of the grade point average for UC’s eligibility determination. As part of the committee’s general review of eligibility components and in response to the final report of the Academic Senate’s AP/Honors Task Force, BOARS has been reassessing the appropriateness of this policy for calculating GPAs for UC freshman admissions purposes. BOARS will continue to study this policy issue in the coming year.

Subcommittees

This year BOARS had four subcommittees that were instrumental in evaluating issues and developing proposals for the committee in a number of areas:

Admissions by Exception Subcommittee (Chair David Stern)

Last year, in response to a recommendation of the Eligibility and Admissions Study Group, the subcommittee began drafting guidelines for the University’s Admissions by Exception (AbyE) policy. After reviewing feedback from campus admissions committees and admissions directors this year, the subcommittee finalized the “Guidelines for

Implementation of University Policy on Admissions by Exception.” These guidelines, which BOARS adopted on July 18, were submitted to the Academic Council for endorsement in the fall.

Analytic Subcommittee (Chair David Stern)

The Analytic Subcommittee was charged with crafting research studies to support BOARS' policy considerations. The subcommittee, with the assistance of UCOP staff and the UC All Campus Consortium for Research on Diversity (UCACCORD), focused its efforts on formulating specific recommendations for constructing “inclusiveness indicators” that would provide a statistical backdrop of the University’s admissions policies over time and the extent to which the UC student body encompasses the population of the state, on several dimensions of diversity. At the March 18 meeting BOARS endorsed the subcommittee’s recommendations to develop three sets of indicators: (1) population indicators, (2) high school indicators, and (3) community college indicators.

Articulation and Evaluation Subcommittee (Chair Michael T. Brown)

Formerly known as the High School Subcommittee, the Articulation and Evaluation Subcommittee continued to manage issues with the ‘a-g’ subject requirements. This year the subcommittee was again asked to evaluate a request to add Earth and Space Science to the laboratory science (‘d’) requirement. The subcommittee, as well as the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP), both evaluated and recommended against this request. Other subcommittee recommendations, which were endorsed by BOARS, included: (1) modification of policy for granting ‘a-g’ course list “Program Status” to require programs to present evidence that course curriculum is taught consistently; (2) application of the Language Other Than English (LOTE) validation rule to transfer students; and (3) acceptance of the unit value granted by the sending institution for split language courses.

Testing Subcommittee (Chair Mark Rashid)

A significant challenge for the Testing Subcommittee this year was to modify the Statewide Eligibility Index and the Eligibility by Examination Alone score requirements to reflect the new SAT and ACT tests and changes to the UC-required examination pattern for fall 2006 admissions. One element of the subcommittee’s recommendations for modifying the Eligibility Index this year was a proposal that the University adopt a neutral scale for admissions exam score conversion. This “UC Score” was intended to remove the appearance of a preference towards the SAT exam (ACT scores are currently converted to an SAT score scale) and allow for the University to eventually more precisely account for differences in score averages and variances on different admissions tests. At the March BOARS meeting, the committee approved the Testing Subcommittee’s proposal to implement a UC Score Eligibility Index for fall 2006; however, the Provost, in consultation with the Council of Chancellors, later made the decision that the University would not use a UC Score for admissions communications this year. The UCOP administration expressed support for the concept of developing a UC Score in the future, but concerns about a lack of adequate time to prepare strategic communications prompted the decision to halt its adoption for the fall 2006 admissions cycle. In response, BOARS unanimously adopted a motion at the April meeting that the

committee would work with UCOP staff towards the objective of instituting a UC Score Eligibility Index for the fall 2007 admissions cycle.

Invited Guests

BOARS invited several guests in addition to their regular UCOP consultants to inform the committee about specific admissions-related issues. These special guests and their topics included:

- Emerging Trends in High Schools: Roman Stearns, Special Assistant to the Director of Undergraduate Admissions, made a presentation to the committee on emerging trends in high schools, such as the trend for large comprehensive high schools to break up into smaller learning communities.
- Authority of Admissions Committees: George Blumenthal, Academic Council Chair, was invited to answer questions about the role and authority of BOARS and the divisional senate admissions committees.
- Budgetary Impact on Admissions: Lawrence Hershman, Vice President for Budget, was invited to discuss funding for comprehensive review and the relationship between enrollment budgets and the eligibility pool.
- California Student ID Tracking System: Charles Masten, Assistant Director of Admissions, presented information to the committee on the new California School Information System (CSIS) Student Identifier and the creation of a statewide longitudinal database for tracking individual student performance over time.
- Compliance with State and Federal Laws: Chris Patti, University Counsel, provided information on state and federal laws with which UC admissions policies and practices must maintain compliance, in particular California's Civil Rights Initiative (Proposition 209) and federal "disparate impact" standards.

Reports and Recommendations

BOARS submitted reports and recommendations to the Academic Council on the following:

- Science Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (SCIGETC) Proposal
- Proposal to Streamline the Course Major-Articulation Process between UC Campuses and the California Community Colleges
- Proposed Excess Units Fee Policy
- Eligibility and Admissions Study Group, Recommendation 3: development of "Guidelines for Implementation of University Policy on Admissions by Exception."
- Eligibility and Admissions Study Group, Recommendation 5: examination of the policy of admitting to each campus students from across the full range of the eligibility pool.
- Eligibility and Admissions Study Group, Recommendation 9: examination of the extent to which campuses consider the quality of writing in the personal statement.
- BOARS white paper, "The University of California's Distinctive Freshman Admissions Process"

BOARS Representation

The Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members represented BOARS in various other groups including the Academic Assembly, Academic Council, UC Merced Task Force, AP/Honors Task Force, UCEP, UCOPE, Admissions Processing Task Force, Eligibility and Admissions Study Group, ASSIST Board of Directors, UC-CCC Transfer Advisory Board, and Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS).

Respectfully submitted,

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David Stern, Vice Chair (B)

Bob Jacobsen (B)

Mark Rashid (D)

Robert Reilly (I)

Adrienne Lavine (LA)

Roger Bales (M)

Dennis Focht (R)

Hans Paar (SD)

Jeff Lansman (SF)

Dick Flacks (SB)

Karen McNally (SC – Fall)

Trish Stoddart (SC – Winter, Spring)

Maria Ledesma, Graduate Student (LA)

Eric Barba, Undergraduate Student (LA)

Kimberly Peterson, Committee Analyst