

**University of California Academic Senate
Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)**

**Minutes of Meeting
June 4, 2010**

I. Announcements

- o *Sylvia Hurtado, BOARS chair*

May Academic Council Meeting:

The Academic Council endorsed BOARS' Comprehensive Review report unanimously. Chair Hurtado also gathered input on the report from the Admissions Processing Task Force. Next week, the final document will be sent to President Yudof, who has already asked Chair Hurtado to present it at the July Regents meeting.

Council discussed the first round recommendations of the UC Commission on the Future and is preparing a memo to the President outlining the Senate's views on each recommendation.

EVP Brostrom and President Yudof updated Council about a developing plan to simplify the way UCOP and the campuses are funded. The "funding streams" project has two components. In the first phase, campuses will retain all revenues they generate, which UCOP will tax at 1.6% to fund systemwide programs. The second phase will involve "re-benching" the current distribution formulas that determine the proportion of state general funds each campus receives. The system will be implemented gradually over the next two years to allow for adjustments. The education finance model and return-to-aid system will not change.

Admissions Director Wilbur added that beginning next year UCOP will return all application fee revenue generated by a campus to that campus, with a tag to identify it as fee revenue. The systemwide admissions office and admissions initiatives such as ApplyUC will no longer be funded with a portion of the fee revenue, but through the 1.6% flat tax. She mentioned that 37% of UC applicants qualify for a fee waiver on up to four campus applications.

Discussion: There was concern that because some UC campuses are more likely to receive applications from students who qualify for an application fee waiver, the new funding model has the potential to create an inequitable allocation of fee revenue across campuses. BOARS should carefully consider the consequences of distributing fee revenue this way.

One member suggested that it would be fairer for UCOP to distribute application revenue to campuses to support admissions functions by allocating approximately 63% of the fee (or \$38) for each student who applied to that campus, regardless of whether the student paid the fee or received a waiver (based on a calculation that 37% of students receive a waiver on the \$60 fee). Members liked this idea, noting that the revenue issue could hinder the success of ETR if it establishes an unequal hierarchy, although one member questioned whether BOARS should be making recommendations on budget matters.

Action: Vice President Sakaki will convey the application fee funding idea to the budget office.

Meetings with UCSD and UCR Admissions Committees:

Chair Hurtado met with the UC San Diego and UC Riverside admissions committees to discuss comprehensive review. She encouraged them to consider best practices on other campuses that will help them achieve their long term goals. She said that both committees are thoughtful and conscientious, but she noted some reluctance at UC San Diego to implement major changes without examining results first.

UCSD Professor Watson noted that the UCSD committee recently voted against moving to holistic review but is considering changes that it believes could have a positive impact on African-American admission rates. The committee is very concerned about low African-American enrollment at UCSD, and is open to change, but it is also committed to its current process and believes its process is fair and the problem with African-American enrollment is a recruitment and yield problem, not an admissions issue that can be solved by moving to a holistic review system.

UCR Professor Heraty noted that UCR plans to adopt Phase II of Comprehensive Review for fall 2012 admissions, which will include holistic-like processes, but the committee is less concerned with implementing a holistic process than with maximizing first year performance, retention, and the recruitment of highly prepared students with strong academic credentials.

General Education Breadth Work Group:

The California Education Roundtable recently resolved that faculty from the three segments come together to develop a common, shared lower division general education pattern and Associate Degree for Transfer by December 1, 2010. The deadline has accelerated the urgency of establishing the BOARS/UCEP/UCOPE work group that Council has asked to consider whether UC should recognize CSU's General Education Breadth transfer pattern.

Subject Test Guidelines for 2012 and Beyond:

Chair Hurtado reminded members to gather information with the help of their admissions committee, about which SAT Subject tests, if any, their campus will recommend for 2012 admissions. It was noted that several campuses are likely to recommend specific tests for students planning to major in Engineering.

II. Consent Calendar

1. Approval of the May 7, 2010 BOARS Minutes

Action: BOARS approved the May minutes.

III. Consultation with UCOP

Judy Sakaki, Vice President for Student Affairs

The July Regents agenda will include briefings on Career Technical Education, 2010 admissions outcomes, and BOARS' Comprehensive Review report. The Regents will confirm UCSF graduate student Alfredo Mireles as the new student Regent-designate. The Regents' Special Committee on Student Life and Alumni Affairs will meet June 15 to discuss the unmet needs of undocumented students, student mental health, campus climate, and career planning. The current student Regent, Jesse Bernal, will join Provost Pitts' office in mid-June as interim diversity coordinator.

UC received 34,116 Statements of Intent to Enroll from California residents for 2010-11, a slight decline from last year. UC may fall short of its 1500 overall reduction target because some campuses are seeing unexpectedly high yield rates, although overall yield dropped slightly, from 49% to 46%. Systemwide, 8.1% of entering freshmen will be non-residents (28% at UC Berkeley). UC continues to make strides in its efforts to admit a freshman class that is representative of the diversity of California. Underrepresented students comprise 27% of SIRs systemwide, and most campuses were able to sustain or increase the proportion of URM's.

Susan Wilbur, Director of Admissions

Nearly every campus increased admission offers to transfer applicants and achieved a higher yield of transfer SIRs, following a 20% increase in transfer applicants from the California Community Colleges. Two bills related to transfer are pending in the California Legislature. SB1440 (Padilla) would require the CCCs and CSU to create Associates Degrees for Transfer to CSU. Similarly, AB2302 (Fong) asks CCC, CSU and UC to develop a strategy for increasing the number of successful transfers to CSU and UC. Director Wilbur noted that UC has taken a neutral position on these bills. UC wants to assist in any way it can, but it would be difficult for UC to offer an admission guarantee to students with the Transfer Associates degree.

Director Wilbur updated BOARS on the status of a proposal to streamline the Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) program. In proposing the change, the Office of Admissions is attempting to balance numerous priorities: maintaining the stimulating effect of ELC in bringing in applicants who may not have applied to UC if they had not received early notification about their ELC status, reducing the cost of the program, and providing information to campuses that will allow them to identify the 9% ELC cohort. UC has determined that in order to capture the top 9%, high schools will need to expand the number of transcripts they send UC. The process is expensive as only 23% of transcripts are submitted electronically. Starting next year, UC will ask schools to send contact information for their top 15% student cohort, all of whom will receive a letter stating that they have been identified as being among the top students in their school and encouraging them to apply to UC. When they apply, UC will match GPA information from the school with the transcript to see if they qualify for ELC, and tag that for the campus. Later, UC will analyze 1/3 of transcripts to update its records about average GPAs in the high schools. Under this plan, UC will be reaching out to a larger community of potential applicants. The difference is that UC will no longer be able to state in the welcoming letter that the student is “guaranteed”. UC is working with schools to ensure the timely submission of required parental authorization for release of transcripts to UC.

BOARS members were mostly positive about the plan. Some expressed concern about the potential for high schools to “game” the system, and there was a suggestion that UC invest in software on behalf of school districts that would enable all schools to submit electronic files.

Don Daves-Rougeaux, Associate Admissions Director

45 teachers, administrators and CTE instructors from around the state attended the UC Curriculum Integration Institute in May to develop high school courses that integrate Mathematics and CTE content. Four courses emerged from the process—Business Algebra, Business Statistics, Finance Mathematics, and “DaVinci Algebra” (a media arts course). These course will be sent to the A&E Subcommittee for approval and eventually made available to high schools across the state. UC has applied for a grant to fund additional Institutes covering other disciplines, including English, Social Sciences, and History.

IV. Planning for July Meeting with Regent Eddie Island and Admissions Directors

Issue: Members discussed the agenda for the July meeting, which will include a morning session with Regent Eddie Island and an afternoon session with the campus Admissions Directors. Earlier this year, the Senate chair and vice chair invited Regent Island to attend a BOARS meeting. Regent Island is a passionate advocate of diversity and access, and has suggested that UC’s low African-American enrollment may be attributable to UC’s admissions system, which

in his view, relies too heavily on grades and test scores. He believes a systemwide adoption of holistic review could be a solution.

Discussion: Regent Island was a member of the 2007 Study Group on University Diversity, and is knowledgeable about admissions. BOARS and Regent Island also agree about many issues. BOARS can help dispel the notion that campuses rely solely on academic criteria in their comprehensive review processes. The CR report is timely in this regard because it shows how campuses use multiple criteria in selection. Moreover, much of the data in the report are positive, detailing good progress for African-Americans and other URM.

It was suggested that BOARS invite Regent Island to submit specific questions or topics he wishes to discuss with BOARS in advance of the July meeting to help focus discussion. BOARS should ask Regent Island how he, BOARS, and the rest of the Regents can work together to ensure that the admissions reform policy will succeed, and how can the Regents can help facilitate the availability of resources for outreach and academic preparation.

BOARS also discussed potential topics for the joint meeting with the admissions directors. These include the wait list; the impact of proposed changes to application fee distribution policy; the transition to the 2012 admissions policy; the pros and cons of holistic review; best practices for faculty involvement in admissions policy and the selection process; and opportunities for score sharing and other commonalities across campuses.

It was suggested that BOARS recommend a systemwide norming of faculty service on campus admissions committees to at least two or three years.

Chair Powell thanked BOARS members for their service to the University. He said the Comprehensive Review report represents the Senate at its best.

Action: Contact the Regents office to invite Regent Island to submit topics or questions in advance of the July meeting.

V. Discussion of President Yudof's Request to BOARS

Issue: In April, President Yudof asked BOARS to consider policy revisions that would require campuses to adopt more consistent admissions processes, including best practices based in holistic review on the most selective campuses, and to recommend a resolution about admissions that will help project the new eligibility policy forward and increase the proportion of underrepresented groups on UC campuses. A BOARS subcommittee drafted a response to the President, which clarifies the difference between comprehensive review and holistic review and recommends that campuses give serious consideration to using a holistic process.

Discussion: The memo should state that there are good practices currently in place on campuses, and BOARS should not pass a resolution that effectively kills the process at UCSB or any other campus. UCSB wants the continued flexibility to accept all ELC students. Each campus' system reflects the values and priorities of its faculty, a principle stated in the CR report. No system is perfect, but each produces the kind of students the faculty want. Moreover, it is impossible to impose a single system on all campuses.

Vice Chair Jacob noted that about 70% of UC applications receive at least one holistic score from UCB or UCLA. He proposed that BOARS recommend that every UC applicant receive a holistic score that would be shared systemwide for campuses to use as they see fit, meaning that the 30% of applicants who do not apply to either UCLA or Berkeley would be read on those campuses or by readers who have been trained at one of those campuses. UCSD

Professor Watson also distributed his proposal that UCSD put each of its applicants through both its current system and a holistic system. His proposal also outlines a process for selecting students based on the scores under each system. He said the UCSD admissions committee will support this plan if it is supported by BOARS and UCOP.

It was noted that a Berkeley score of “4” is likely a denial at Berkeley, but might be good enough on another campus. Campuses will need training to help them understand how to make these scores useful. Director Wilbur said it would be impossible to implement such a plan this year due to workload issues.

Action: BOARS members supported the plan for wide distribution of holistic scores across the system, which will give faculty and campuses a chance to use the scores and learn more about how they work. BOARS also supported UCSD’s efforts to investigate the use of the holistic scores through Professor Watson’s proposal. A modified letter to the President will be distributed to the committee for comment and approval.

VI. Articulation and Evaluation Issues

1. Career Technical Education

The Department of Education has asked UC to meet a goal of approving 10,000 academically rigorous CTE courses for ‘a-g’ by the end of 2011-12. UC has approved 9,000 so far. Vice Chair Jacob said there are many good reasons for BOARS to support CTE, and asked the committee to support a formal statement outlining BOARS’ support for the goals that also notes some of the obstacles to its success. He also asked BOARS to approve adding language to the discussion of CTE in area g in the *A-G Guide* allowing students to receive “blended” a-g course credit.

It was noted that blended courses could help capture student interest, and it is good for UC to be as flexible as possible; and there are no technical obstacles to doing this.

Vice Chair Jacob added that the Department of Education recently approved national standards in math and English, which specify what every K-12 student should learn every year. California may or may not adopt these standards, but BOARS should monitor. The area b task force will consider them next year as it proceeds with its work.

Action: BOARS approved the CTE statement and the proposed language regarding blended courses with amendments.

2. Transfer Initiatives

BOARS discussed bills related to transfer pending in the California Legislature. ICAS will review these bills and their implications next week.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm
Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola
Attest: Sylvia Hurtado