

Minutes of Meeting – October 5, 2007

UCOP Room 5320, Oakland, CA

I. Executive Session

Note: Minutes, aside from action items, are not prepared for this portion of the meeting.

II. Chair's Welcome and Announcements

- **Mark Rashid, BOARS Chair**

BOARS Chair Rashid welcomed new and returning BOARS members and consultants. After brief introductions, Chair Rashid provided members with an overview of committee procedures and operations, as well as his priorities for the year.

III. "Inequality, Student Achievement and Admissions: A Remedy for Underrepresentation"

- **Roger Studley, Assistant Director, Research & Evaluation**

ISSUE: Assistant Director Studley was invited to present his paper, "Inequality, Student Achievement and Admissions: A Remedy for Underrepresentation," and discuss his research with BOARS members.

PRESENTATION: Assistant Director Studley presented his paper, which looks at the relationship between students' circumstance and achievement, and shows that a college admissions policy that accounts for this relationship can significantly increase the representation of socioeconomically disadvantaged and minority students. The paper, also available at <http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/docs/ROP.Studley.1.03.pdf>, was presented via PowerPoint. Assistant Director Studley noted that it is a work-in-progress that will evolve over the next few months.

DISCUSSION: BOARS members noted that many aspects of Assistant Director Studley's research could be used by the campuses when they engage in reexamining their comprehensive review processes. Members also asked questions, and offered suggestions of additional data to include in the paper's next revision. Assistant Director Studley thanked BOARS members for their input, and invited additional comments to be submitted to him via email.

IV. Consultation with John Douglass, Author: "The Conditions for Admission: Access, Equity and the Social Contract of Public Universities" (Stanford Univ. Press, 2007)

- **John Douglass, Senior Research Fellow, Center for Studies in Higher Education (CSHE), UC Berkeley**

ISSUE: John Douglass was invited to discuss his recent book, "The Conditions for Admission: Access, Equity and the Social Contract of Public Universities," and his insights on admissions topics.

PRESENTATION: After distributing two handouts to BOARS members, Mr. Douglass provided an overview of his book and highlighted the history of UC admissions policy,

beginning with the 1960 California Master Plan. He noted the specific impacts of policy decisions surrounding “alternative admissions,” raising GPA requirements, the eligibility pool, the development of the eligibility index, and the use of the SAT. Mr. Douglass emphasized the need for UC to plan for enrollment growth into the future, as well as the importance of transparency in admissions processes, which he considers to be part of the “social contract of public institutions.” Mr. Douglass also shared his reactions to the BOARS Eligibility Reform Proposal, currently under Senate review.

DISCUSSION: BOARS members thanked Mr. Douglass for his time today, and complimented his book, finding it helpful in providing a historical perspective to current admissions policy. Members then asked questions concerning Mr. Douglass’ views on the Admissions by Exception policy, his concept of the “social contract of public institutions,” as well as the future of UC eligibility policy.

V. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

- **Michael T. Brown, Academic Senate Chair**
- **Maria Bertero-Barcelo, Executive Director**

REPORT: Academic Senate Chair Michael T. Brown provided BOARS members with an overview of the shared governance structure at UC, encouraged active member participation on the committee, emphasized the importance of members’ communication with their local Division, and expressed his gratitude for members’ service on BOARS this year. Chair Brown also updated members on issues facing the Academic Council this year, including the reorganization of the Office of the President, implementation of the faculty salary scales plan, the search for UC’s next President, continued efforts to increase graduate student support, and the state budget crisis. Executive Director Bertero-Barcelo then briefly discussed Academic Senate travel policies and procedures for reimbursement, and referred BOARS members to the [Systemwide Guidelines for Senate Committees](#), for more information on the inner-workings of the systemwide Academic Senate.

VI. Consultation with the Office of the President – Admissions

- **Susan Wilbur, Director, Undergraduate Admissions**

REPORT: Undergraduate Admissions Director Susan Wilbur provided BOARS members with an overview of the UCOP Office of Undergraduate Admissions, and her role as BOARS consultant. She noted that part of her office’s portfolio involves serving BOARS, and includes valuable researchers and staff that can contribute to BOARS’ deliberations. Director Wilbur then offered the following updates:

- Fall 2007 Counselor Conferences: Six conferences were held this year, attended by 5500 high school counselors in a ten-day period across the state. Director Wilbur sees the need to expand the conferences even more next year. She expressed gratitude to BOARS members Peter Sadler and Mark Rashid for attending the conferences. Director Wilbur reported the following two take-away messages: (1) the counselors’ interest in the admissions “rules” sessions that were offered; and (2) many do not wholly believe that UC’s message – while testing is important, it is not UC’s #1 consideration in admissions – is reality.

- Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC): Eligibility letters are being prepared now to send to high school students across the state.
- Priorities:
 - Continue work with California State University (CSU) partners on the Career Technical Education initiative ('g' elective). They will need to create additional language on what UC and CSU will accept for the 'g' elective, with a completion date by the end of the 2007-08 academic year.
 - Progress with the faculty task force looking closely at the 'c' and 'd' admissions requirements, with an eye towards providing greater specificity.
 - Improve the consistency of the 'a-g' course approval process, as well as strengthening the process itself.
 - Completing the top 20 "transfer preparation paths" in the upcoming year. Six majors have been completed so far.
 - The Articulation and Evaluation (A&E) Subcommittee, to be chaired by BOARS member Bill Jacob, has many projects underway, including: looking at transfer admissions guidelines; review of IGETC guidelines that UC, CSU and the CCCs use; and policies that require improvement: acceptance of online courses, and policies on regional accreditation.
 - Other upcoming issues: UCOP's "shared review" initiative; UC "Statfinder," which will launch in late October; the CPEC eligibility study, to begin later in the year; and the UC Pathways application tool, which just opened for the fall 2008 applications on October 1.

DISCUSSION: BOARS Chair Rashid requested additional information on the revisions to the 'a-g' certification process. Director Wilbur reported that the issue first arose after concerns were brought to her, highlighting the need to strengthen UC's course review process. Discussions have been held so far involving UC faculty, and David Connelly (University of Oregon), looking at a process that offers greater consistency, detailed rubrics for reviewers, and feedback/remediation information to schools. Director Wilbur's office will require more staff to complete this project, including existing subject matter experts that UC currently works with. They are only at the beginning stages of this project, and will likely need additional assistance from BOARS. Director Wilbur plans to begin with a pilot project targeting the rubric for the visual and performing arts first, followed by math and science, and then English. BOARS Chair Rashid noted the serious policy implications involved with this project, as well as the CTE initiative and the "shared reading" project – all issues squarely with BOARS' purview that they will be closely following this year. Lastly, a BOARS member suggested that the UCOP and campus websites should include profiles of students who benefited from UC's comprehensive review process, to counter the lists of average SAT scores that are currently on the websites.

VII. BOARS' Proposal to Reform UC's Freshman Eligibility Policy

- **Mark Rashid, BOARS Chair**
- **BOARS Members**

ISSUE: BOARS members were invited to offer campus reactions to the BOARS Eligibility Reform Proposal, as well as helpful communication strategies as the campuses begin review of the proposal.

DISCUSSION: BOARS members noted the urgent need for communication strategies, as their campus committees are scheduled to consider the BOARS proposal very soon. As background information, Chair Rashid provided a brief overview of the BOARS proposal, current UC eligibility policy and the expected outcomes of the BOARS proposal should it pass Senate review. He noted a list of potential arguments against the BOARS proposal, and offered counterarguments, which BOARS members found extremely useful. BOARS members then discussed how to explain the proposal to their Senate colleagues. BOARS Vice Chair Sylvia Hurtado reported that she would work on a PowerPoint presentation, which could be modified by each BOARS member specific to their own campus. BOARS member David Stern also volunteered to distribute to BOARS members a PowerPoint presentation he had previously prepared, which they might also find helpful.

ACTION: Discussion of this issue will continue at the November 9 BOARS meeting.

VIII. BOARS' Comments on Proposal Out for Systemwide Senate Review: University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulation 636

ISSUE: The University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) has proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 636, which are currently out for systemwide Senate review. BOARS will decide whether to submit comments to the Academic Council on this proposal.

DISCUSSION: After explaining the UCOPE proposal, BOARS Chair Rashid asked if there was general concurrence with the proposed revisions. BOARS members offered support for the proposal, and noted that additional comments would be sent via email to Chair Rashid following today's meeting.

ACTION: BOARS approved UCOPE's Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulation 636 via unanimous consent.

IX. BOARS Business

- 1. BOARS Subcommittee Structure and Responsibilities**
- 2. Admissions Testing Subcommittee Update**

ACTION: Due to lack of time, discussion of these items was postponed to a later meeting date.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.
Attest: Mark Rashid

Minutes drafted by:
Michelle Ruskofsky
BOARS Analyst