

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA **ACADEMIC SENATE**
BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Minutes of Teleconference Meeting

March 6, 2015

I. Consent Calendar

- BOARS draft minutes of February 6, 2015

Action: BOARS approved the February meeting minutes.

II. Announcements

- *Ralph Aldredge, BOARS Chair*
- *Henry Sanchez, BOARS Vice Chair*

Academic Council Meeting: At the February Council meeting, Council Chair Gilly and Provost Dorr discussed a plan to convene key individuals from several majors to examine cross-campus differences in transfer preparation requirements and recommend changes that will increase alignment. After several division chairs expressed concern that the process will not adequately involve the Senate, Chair Gilly noted that faculty will lead the decision-making process, and no group will force a department to change its transfer requirements.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Office

- *Mary Gilly, Academic Senate Chair*
- *Dan Hare, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Streamlining Transfer: The Senate and Provost are collaborating on the transfer streamlining initiative. In February, Provost Dorr and Chair Gilly asked campus administrators to identify the faculty, academic administrators, and/or staff responsible for determining the pre-major preparation expected of transfers students in 21 majors. A similar request was made of BOARS. UCOP will convene groups of campus representatives from ten majors throughout the spring, beginning with Life Sciences on April 2. Any conclusion reached at the meetings about recommended revisions will begin a conversation that will continue on the campuses. The President expects the university to establish agreements for ten pathways by fall 2015, with ten more the following year.

State Budget and Politics: Budget hearings have begun in Sacramento, with legislators expressing concern about nonresident enrollment, UC employee compensation, and pension costs. The President and Governor's "Committee of Two" has been discussing instructional costs, three-year degrees, underrepresented minority student recruitment, and transfer. Senior staff members from the Governor's Office and representatives from the Department of Finance are touring UC campuses to learn more about the university. Chair Gilly has asked Senate offices to ensure that faculty have a role in the visits. The Texas Governor recently proposed more funding for Texas universities, with the expressed purpose of replacing California universities in the top ten list.

Enrollment: President Napolitano has announced that UC will cap nonresident enrollment at UCLA and UCB next year, but allow it to rise at other campuses. She also directed campuses to freeze resident enrollment at current levels unless UC gets more state funding. Campus admissions offices are relying on wait lists to help them adhere to the precise enrollment targets.

Meaning of a UC Degree: The first of several presentations to the Regents about the nature of a UC undergraduate education, requested by Regent Kieffer, is scheduled for the March Regents meeting. The Berkeley chancellor and Senate chair will discuss the history of the American higher education structure from the beginning of the republic to the modern university and current efforts at Berkeley to revise the undergraduate curriculum.

CCC Baccalaureate Degree Pilot: The Governor signed a bill that will allow several California Community Colleges (CCC) to offer bachelor's degrees in vocational fields not offered at a UC or CSU campus. Some UC and CSU faculty are concerned that potential transfer students may also take some of the upper division general education requirements designed for people in the majors, and then seek credit for them at UC and CSU.

Associate Director Lin noted that UC reviews online K-12 courses for "a-g" credit against the [iNACOL National Quality Standards](#) for online education, but UC does not consider the specific mechanism of community college courses in decisions about basic transferability. Faculty may wish to consider adding criteria for online transfer courses; a good starting point is California's [Title V Regulations for "distance education."](#)

IV. Consultation with UCOP

- *Stephen Handel, Associate Vice President, Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Michael Treviño, Director of Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Monica Lin, Associate Director Undergraduate Admissions*

2015-16 Admissions: UC campuses are starting to send admissions decisions to students. Freshmen have until May 1, and transfers until June 1, to submit their Statement of Intent to Register (SIR). This year's uncertain budget climate makes the admissions process more challenging, and UCOP has been working closely with campuses to help them plan. Wait lists are expected to be larger than usual because applications from California residents increased 2%, but campuses have been asked to maintain current resident enrollment targets. Merced is also planning for a larger referral pool.

Transfer Streamlining: UCOP is preparing background materials for the April 2 meeting of campus representatives from four Life Sciences majors, who will meet in Oakland to discuss the alignment of transfer curriculum. UCOP will host subsequent meetings for the Social Sciences, Physical Sciences, and other majors. State officials continue to be interested in UC's efforts to accommodate transfers and strengthen the transfer process.

Review of Revised AP/IB Exams: Director Treviño is working with BOARS Vice Chair Sanchez to identify faculty for content expert groups who will review updated AP and IB exams and

make recommendations to BOARS on whether to award UC credit for certain exam score thresholds.

TCA Guidelines: Chair Aldredge has asked faculty content expert work groups to review the systemwide Transferable Course Agreement (TCA) Guidelines in eight subject areas. The Guidelines reflect the minimum, baseline course content required for UC transferability. UCOP expects to provide BOARS with each group's recommendation in May.

A-G Advisory Committee: The A-G Advisory Committee consists of representatives from UC, CSU, K-12, and the California Department of Education. The committee met in Oakland last Friday to review UC's new A-G [Course Management Portal](#), discuss the alignment of the "a-g" course review criteria with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and preview the agenda for an upcoming UC articulation conference focused on math. The Committee thinks it is important for the higher education segments to align area "d" with the science curriculum expectations in the NGSS, particularly because the state wants to begin assessing students against the NGSS in the 2018-19 academic year.

V. Compare Favorably Reports

All nine undergraduate campuses have sent BOARS their compare favorably reports for the 2014 admission cycle. Chair Aldredge noted that the number of nonresident applications has increased dramatically on some campuses, reducing admission rates and allowing campuses to select from a deeper pool of nonresident applicants. It is expected that the recently announced cap on nonresident enrollments at Berkeley and UCLA will drive more nonresident applicants to other UC campuses and increase selectivity and quality across the system.

The campus reports revealed that campuses have different processes for evaluating nonresidents and residents. At some campuses, selection methods for the two applicant groups also differ, resulting in disparate admission rates in some cases. In particular, cutoff holistic-review scores for selection appear to be higher for nonresidents than for residents and exhibit less gradation at some campuses, resulting in higher nonresident-applicant admission rates. However, campuses compare the two applicant pools to evaluate the extent to which nonresident admits targeted for admission compare favorably with resident admits according to specific measures of competitiveness, including GPA and SAT scores before finalizing admission decisions. Chair Aldredge asked each BOARS member to review all of the campus-specific reports prepared by UCOP comparing nonresident and resident performance indicators and admission rates to assess the extent to which UC as a whole is meeting the compare-favorably standard, and whether there are any particular concerns that should be addressed.

It was agreed that BOARS will produce a report on systemwide outcomes from 2014 and that UCOP will update the table in BOARS' 2013 [report](#) that summarizes, by residency status, average high school GPAs and SAT scores for students admitted in fall 2014, average first-year UC GPA for students who enrolled in fall 2013, and the persistence of students who enrolled in fall 2014. A member said the report should emphasize that campuses are struggling to provide support services for a rapidly increasing nonresident population, that international students carry additional costs related to English remediation and advising, that adequate resources are needed

to support their academic success after they arrive on campus, and that some campuses are concerned that the concentration of international students in a handful of majors is straining those disciplines and reducing access for domestic students.

VI. International Application Evaluation

UC Santa Cruz is seeking advice from other campuses about how to more effectively evaluate international applicants. The campus has found that an applicant's score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) exam is an unreliable predictor of performance and success at UCSC. UCSC is weighing the potential value and suitability of using alternative exams offered by outside agencies that have approached the campus.

It was noted that the testing agencies who are seeking UC's endorsement of their exams do not have objective data that would help UC make evidence-based decisions. It was noted that BOARS reviewed data in 2013 about the relative power of the four TOEFL sub-scores in predicting college-level outcomes and the extent to which the TOEFL exam and/or the minimum TOEFL score of 80 currently used by campuses are effectively assessing English language skills. As a result of BOARS' advice, campuses now receive TOEFL sub-scores. It was noted that a prior analysis showed that for international students, SAT score is a stronger predictor of success than high school GPA or TOEFL score. It was noted that campuses have flexibility to grant credit awards for an exam score (including the Singapore-Cambridge A-Level certificate) after the systemwide policy is met with regard to a minimum score.

VII. ICAS Natural Science Competency Statement

The Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) has asked faculty from each higher education segment to review a draft version of an updated "Statement of Competencies in the Natural Sciences Expected of Entering Freshmen." Chair Gilly has asked BOARS, UCEP, and UCOPE to review the statement on behalf of the UC Senate. The document updates a 1988 ICAS statement to reflect the State's adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards. It recommends that students enroll in a science course in each year of high school.

It was noted that BOARS has been asked to revisit UC's area "d" science requirement in the context of the NGSS. One question is whether area "d" will continue to identify the three core laboratory science disciplines as Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, or change to reflect the four core NGSS topic categories—Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences, and Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science. Currently area "d" is based on a curricular framework California high schools will no longer follow. The ICAS statement may inadvertently steer UC in the direction of keeping the requirement as is.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm
Minutes Prepared by Michael LaBriola
Attest: Ralph Aldredge