

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

Minutes of Meeting

March 4, 2016

I. Executive Session

II. Consent Calendar

1. March 4, 2016 BOARS Agenda
2. February 5, 2016 BOARS Draft Minutes

ACTION: BOARS approved the consent calendar.

III. Announcements

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

UC Articulation Conferences: BOARS Chair Aldredge and Vice Chair Sanchez attended the UC Math Articulation Conference “Aligning Math Together” on March 2 at UC Davis. A second conference was held at UC Irvine on February 26. The events brought together representatives from K-12, the three segments of CA public higher education, private colleges and universities, and state agencies to discuss expectations for math preparation across the K-16 pipeline, challenges related to math instruction, placement, and transfer, and practices that support student success. Specific workshops focused on curricular alignment with the Common Core State Standards, and alternative math pathways for CCC students preparing for transfer to CSU and UC. Several policy solutions were proposed, including the possibility of requiring four years of high school math for admission to UC and CSU.

ICAS IGETC Standards Review Subcommittee: BOARS has been invited to provide a representative to the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS) IGETC Standards Review Subcommittee. The Subcommittee maintains the “[IGETC Standards, Policies, and Procedures](#)” document, which outlines guidelines for the content and use of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum. The Subcommittee includes a faculty representative, administrator, and articulation officer from each higher education segment. It was decided that Chair Aldredge will be the representative.

IV. Consultation with Senate Leadership

- *Dan Hare, Academic Senate Chair*

Transfer Pathways: The Senate office has obtained final campus department sign-offs on UC Transfer Pathway agreements for 11 majors, including three engineering majors, reached by faculty delegates in October. The Senate has also developed a procedure for adding smaller, specialized degree programs on specific campuses to a related Pathway.

Retirement Options Task Force: The Academic Council sent a [letter](#) to President Napolitano summarizing comments from Senate divisions and systemwide committees in response to the [report of the Retirement Options Task Force](#) and its recommendations for a new pension plan that will apply to UC employees hired on or after July 1, 2016. President Napolitano informed Chair Hare that she has read the Senate's comments and understands its concerns about how the 2016 tier will impact faculty recruitment and retention.

C-ID Pilot Plan: At its February meeting, the Academic Council reviewed BOARS' plan to pilot the use of the Course Identification Numbering system (C-ID) in the course-to-course articulation of a select number of UC Transfer Pathways.

Joint Committee on Faculty Discipline: The Joint Committee's final report, addressing policies and processes for investigating, adjudicating, and sanctioning incidents of sexual misconduct involving UC faculty, has been released for systemwide review. The Joint Committee found that existing systemwide and campus policies and procedures are generally sound, but are not well understood by faculty and administrators.

February ICAS Meeting: At ICAS' February meeting, Chair Hare learned about proposed legislation, [AB 1985](#), which would require the California Community Colleges (CCC) to have a uniform policy for granting GE credit for students who pass an Advanced Placement exam with a score of 3 or higher. CCC faculty leaders are concerned that the bill intrudes upon the faculty's purview over curriculum, and could lower academic standards in some cases. It would also affect UC in the sense that CCC students who transfer to UC or CSU may have fulfilled a portion of IGETC with AP credit.

V. Consultation with UCOP

- *Nina Robinson, Associate President and Chief Policy Advisor*
- *Debora Obley, Associate Vice President for Budget and Capital Resources*

Budget Audit: UC is undergoing an audit initiated by the Legislature last spring. The audit team discussed preliminary findings with UC leaders in early March, and final results are expected in late March. The audit covers a broad array of budget topics, including the impact of nonresident enrollment and the "compare favorably" standard for nonresident admission. The auditors are familiar with BOARS' policies and are concerned about a lack of clarity and transparency with regard to the "compare favorably" standard. UCOP believes that some of the report's conclusions are unwarranted, including its assumption that nonresidents are displacing California residents. UCOP argues that the University is meeting its Master Plan obligation to all state-funded California residents.

The audit's analysis is based on an interpretation of the 1960 Master Plan standard for nonresident admission and its language stating that nonresident applicants are expected to be in "the upper half of those ordinarily eligible." This language has become less relevant and more ambiguous in the context of UC's increasing selectivity, the shift to campus-level admission, and the 2009 admissions policy changes that greatly expanded eligibility through Entitled to Review. The "compare favorably" standard helps reflect the new reality and ensures that no CA applicant can claim they have been displaced by a nonresident with weaker academic credentials.

UCOP will defend the faculty's policies and their implementation, but it is likely that after the audit information is publicized, UC will be asked to make more of its admissions data public. Campuses should continue to be mindful about the compare favorably policy and prepared to clearly defend their admissions practices. Campuses should also remember that "compare favorably" is an admission standard, not an enrollment standard.

ELC Admissions Pilot Program: President Napolitano and the chancellors are interested in increasing student diversity through existing policy. A new pilot program initiated by UCOP promotes the admission of more applicants eligible for UC through the Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) path only and who attend under-resourced high schools designated as Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) "Plus." UC has also been under political pressure to expand diversity, and UCOP was concerned about a recent piece of legislation that sought to increase the number of students admitted from LCFF-Plus schools, but which also intruded inappropriately into certain aspects of UC admissions policy. In thinking about a response, UCOP noted that ELC has been an important BOARS priority for many years and that the richly diverse ELC-only applicant pool increased by 50% last year following a change to the statewide index. In addition, UCOP noted that BOARS has also expressed concern about the size of the referral pool, and that a high percentage of ELC-only students do not receive an offer from their campus of choice and are sent to the referral pool for an offer from UC Merced. UCOP flagged the approximately 5,000 applicants who meet the ELC-only/LCFF Plus criteria and is asking campuses to take a second look within the context of their own admissions policies. UCOP hopes the pilot will result in the admission of more ELC-only students to campuses across the system, and yield a higher percentage of those students. UCOP will assemble data at the end of the admission cycle to see if the pilot had a positive impact. UCOP recognizes that there are many ways to increase diversity, and welcomes input into other efforts that will have an equal or better impact.

Chair Aldredge noted that BOARS members have raised concerns about a lack of shared-governance consultation in the decision to launch the pilot and about the extent to which it is an admissions mandate to campuses. Faculty are also hearing inconsistent messages about the program on their campuses. BOARS strongly supports the diversity goals, but with advance consultation, the committee might have been able to provide additional beneficial input in to strategies for targeting students at under-resourced schools. In the future, BOARS would appreciate more transparent written communications from UCOP about systemwide initiatives.

Associate President Robinson apologized for not informing BOARS sooner and noted that UCOP felt it needed to act quickly. UCOP has not established a mandate for the admission of the ELC-only/LCFF Plus students. In verbal communications, UCOP has suggested that campuses consider a soft target of 4%, but a specific number was not included in the written guidance. The pilot should be considered one tool available to campuses to meet the larger diversity goal. UCOP is engaged in a number of parallel efforts to increase diversity, particularly the enrollment yield of admitted African-Americans, whose representation in the ELC-only pool is small but significant. The President also recognizes that the agreement to increase resident enrollment by 5,000 next year is an opportunity to increase diversity.

VI. Consultation with UCOP

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

- *Monica Lin, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions*
- *Lisa Garcia, Special Assistant, Systemwide Admissions Initiatives*

Eligibility Study: The state is planning a new study of California public high school graduates estimated to be eligible for admission into CSU and UC, to determine if CSU and UC are drawing their respective Master Plan targets of 33% and 12.5%. The last eligibility study was done in 2007 by the defunct California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC). Senate Bill 103 calls on the Director of the Office of Planning and Research to convene an intersegmental work group to determine the overall approach to the study, issue an RFP for a vendor to conduct the research, and report outcomes to the state by December 2016. The vendor will review sample transcripts from across the state to estimate the relative percentages of eligible students. UCOP will update BOARS about progress. BOARS has responded to past studies by adjusting admissions requirements to align projected outcomes with the 12.5% target.

CSU Quantitative Reasoning Task Force: The CSU chancellor's office has convened a joint task force to review CSU's mathematics/quantitative reasoning (Area B4) requirement in order to inform the CSU Academic Senate about the appropriate prerequisite content for college-level quantitative reasoning courses. Vice Chair Sanchez will represent BOARS on the Task Force, which includes representatives from K-12, CSU, UC, CCC, the California Department of Education, and the Lieutenant Governor's office.

BOARS Statement on Calculus: UC articulation staff proposed several clarifications to BOARS' Statement on the Role of Calculus in UC Admissions. Staff also suggested that BOARS might revise the statement to focus on accelerated math pathways in the Common Core, rather than on calculus only; to highlight courses other than calculus high school students interested in a fourth year of advanced math could complete; and to consult with additional UC faculty from STEM fields prior to releasing the statement. It was noted that K-12 is looking for assurances from higher education that it will support K-12's efforts to align math curriculum with the Common Core principles, including its de-emphasis on accelerated pathways.

BOARS members agreed that the statement should continue to focus on calculus and that the committee might develop a separate statement addressing accelerated pathways and the Common Core. The statement should focus on the importance of developing mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills, rather than list specific alternative advanced math courses.

ACTION: Professor Zieve will review the specific proposed modifications to the statement and recommend a revised version for BOARS' consideration.

VII. Campus Committee Reports

Several campus committees are discussing the ELC Admissions Pilot Program. UCSD is concerned that ELC-only students on the campus have lower average first-year GPAs and persistence rates compared to other students; the committee wants to increase diversity, but also wants to admit students who can succeed and persist to graduation. Other campuses have noted that they already admit more ELC-only students than the soft target of 4% encouraged by the pilot. One campus is concerned that the pilot will hurt its diversity, if other campuses admit more ELC-only students who would have otherwise enrolled there. Campuses also understand that additional services may be needed to support ELC/LCFF students.

UCSD is reviewing outcomes from a pilot program that is using Skype interviews to assess the English language skills of international applicants. UCD is discussing a College of Letters and Sciences rule that forbids placing academic constraints on transfer admission into a major, unless the major is impacted. UCSB has empaneled a joint task force to develop criteria for designating a major as impacted. UCM is requesting guidance from BOARS about a high school student's ability to validate the geometry requirement with a higher level math course.

It was noted that BOARS decided to require geometry for basic UC eligibility as part of area "c," but BOARS has not addressed validation pathways, although students without geometry may be admitted through Admissions by Exception. BOARS asked UCOP consultants to provide an overview of the geometry requirement, what avenues exist for validation, and what validation options exist for other subject areas and courses.

VIII. Investing in California's African-American Students: College Choice, Diversity, and Exclusion

o Professor Eddie Comeaux, UC Riverside

Professor Comeaux presented findings from the recent study of African-American student yield, commissioned by UCOP in 2015 to help understand why many African-American students admitted to UC choose to enroll at other schools. Professor Comeaux was a co-Principal Investigator on the research team, which included faculty, post-docs, and graduate students from across the UC system. He noted that the number of African-Americans admitted to UC dropped sharply following the passage of Proposition 209 in 1996, and has never rebounded. Today, UC Riverside has the highest African-American enrollment of any UC campus, at about 6.5%.

The mixed-method study had both quantitative and qualitative components. Researchers administered an online survey to all fall 2015 African-American UC admits; 710 students completed the survey, 558 of whom were CA residents. Researchers also interviewed 74 African-American UC admits who currently attend non-UC institutions. The interviews drew respondents from across California and from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds. Most were high academic achievers who were involved in a variety of extracurricular, community service, and leadership activities in high school.

Five themes emerged from the study as choice factors: access, campus diversity and climate, affordability, outreach, and high school context.

Access: Several respondents reported that they were denied admission to the UC campus of their choice. Others were not admitted to a highly selective UC "flagship" campus, but were accepted at one or more Ivy League or other highly selective private schools, and felt they could not justify attending a less selective UC campus.

Campus Diversity and Climate: Many respondents said a campus's racial climate was a factor in their decision. Several expressed concern that low African-American enrollment on UC campuses would leave them feeling isolated and unsupported, and others referenced racially insensitive events at specific campuses. These concerns led some students to opt for the more diverse communities at some CSUs, private colleges, and HBCUs.

Affordability: College affordability was an issue for many African-American respondents. Some felt they could not afford UC and had to choose a less expensive institution. Others reported being influenced by more generous financial aid offers from non-UCs.

Outreach: Many African-American respondents said they had little or no contact with a UC campus recruiter before or after the admissions process. Recruiters at other universities, in contrast, reached out to the students in a variety of ways.

High School Context: Many African-American respondents reported that their high school lacked sufficient counseling resources, and that counselors and teachers were not knowledgeable about UC academic programs and opportunities, provided little guidance beyond college application preparation, and did not encourage them to apply to UC.

Recommendations: The study recommends several changes to policy and practice. These include broadening the view of merit in comprehensive review to give greater weight to non-cognitive variables; establishing a single application fee that allows students to apply to multiple UC campuses; increasing outreach to urban high schools with a high concentration of low-income and African-American students; using URM students currently enrolled on UC campuses and children of African-American UC alumni to assist in outreach and recruitment; increasing the number of scholarships provided to first-generation, low-income, and middle-income African-American students through private fundraising; and increasing awareness of UC academic programs among high school counselors and teachers.

IX. Compare Favorably Data Reports

BOARS reviewed draft UCOP-generated reports comparing academic indicators (Academic Index, GPA & Test Scores) of fall 2015 domestic nonresident and international admits to California resident admits. Following comment from BOARS, UCOP will release the final individual campus reports to BOARS members, who will prepare analyses of 2015 outcomes with the help of campus committees and admissions offices. A final BOARS report will summarize campus and systemwide outcomes. The report will also address the UC performance of each group UC.

BOARS members noted that campuses must admit nonresidents at a higher rate to achieve an expected yield (enrollment) target, because they accept admission offers at a much lower rate than residents. It was also noted that admitted nonresidents must still compare favorably to admitted residents, irrespective of the yield issue. Also, questions about whether UC is enrolling too many nonresidents or whether nonresidents are displacing residents should be considered separately from the question about whether campuses are meeting the compare favorably standard. Members requested the addition of standard deviations to several tables to emphasize statistically significant points.

X. Statement on Consultation

BOARS discussed a statement affirming the value of system-wide discussions and consultations about changes being considered for admissions practices and policies at the individual campuses.

ACTION: BOARS approved the statement for posting on the BOARS website.

XI. Executive Session

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm
Minutes Prepared by Michael LaBriola, Principal Committee Analyst
Attest: Ralph Aldredge