

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PREPARATORY EDUCATION

VIDEOCONFERENCE MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017

Attending: Bradley Queen, Chair (UCI), Carrie Wastal, Vice Chair (UCSD), Darlene Francis (UCB), Deborah Willis (UCR), Daniel Gross (UCI), Carol Miller (UCSF), George Gadda (AWPE Committee Chair/Chief Reader), Karen Gocsik (UCSD), Trevor Hayton (UCSB), Debra Lewis (UCSC), Joseph Biello (UCD), Julie Lind (AWPE Coordinator, Undergraduate Admissions), Tongshan Chang (Director, Institutional Research and Academic Planning), Matt Reed (Analyst, Institutional Research and Academic Planning), Brenda Abrams (Principal Analyst)

I. Update on Analysis of the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE)

- *Tongshan Chang, Director, Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)*
- *Matt Reed, Analyst, Institutional Research and Academic Planning*

Director Chang and Analyst Reed informed the committee that the analysis of the AWPE data is still being conducted. IRAP is using 2016 data and has worked on data compilation and validation but there are issues with the data. Based on the data received from Berkeley, 72% of students satisfied the Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) using methods other than the AWPE and IRAP proposed using Advance Placement (AP) exam scores from to see if this would fix the issue. This analysis has not been finished and it is unclear if the AP exam scores can be used. If IRAP cannot resolve the issue with UCB's data, the 2015 UCB data may be used for this analysis.

All three sections of the report will involve first term of first year course data. For the 2012 report only four campuses provided data in response to IRAP's request but course data has been collected since that time. This analysis would be the first time that the course data from the nine undergraduate campuses in IRAP's data warehouse will be validated. IRAP plans to collect all of the 2016 course data by August 1st and is also determining if the 2015 course data can be utilized. The 2016 data has to be cleaned which means the report for UCOPE may not be completed before the end of September. But the report could be completed in early September if the UCB data is excluded for this analysis.

Discussion: Chair Queen asked if it would be possible to move forward with the analysis without Berkeley's data and Director Chang agreed that IRAP has good data from the other campuses. The Director indicated that because Berkeley has so many students who pass the requirements using different methods, their data will impact the systemwide results. The UCB representative pointed out that since Berkeley has the smallest number of students who need to take the AWPE, conducting the analysis with data from just the other eight campuses would be fine. Director Chang explained that the purpose of the analysis is to look at how many students passed by each method and the correlation between each method and the course performance in the first year. UCB did not include the students' AP exam scores in the data submitted to IRAP so this data would need to be requested from the College Board.

The UCB representative agreed that the analysis should be done without data from that campus and she will follow-up with the individuals at UCB about how to eventually get this data. It was suggested that having data on UCB's international students for this analysis would be helpful. In light of the consequences for students, one member expressed strong support for conducting the analysis of the AWPE data without the UCB data.

Action: There was unanimous support for IRAP to move forward with the data analysis without UCB's data and IRAP will move forward and will add UCB's data if the campus can provide it and it is usable. The UCB representative will follow up with the analyst and IRAP regarding the Berkeley data.

II. Analysis of the new SAT and ACT and Satisfaction of the ELWR

Chair Queen explained that the committee will vote separately on the three recommendations offered in the IRAP report on the new SAT and the new ACT.

Recommendation #1: Set a threshold of 690 on SAT EBRW for meeting the ELWR for a pilot period until more data are available. At this threshold, available data suggest that over 75% of students will pass the AWPE, consistent with the pattern in the last year of the old SAT writing test.

Discussion: A motion was made and seconded to approve the first recommendation. Several members asked why a score of 690 as opposed to 680 should be set as the threshold since the difference seems to be minimal and since 680 has been used in the past. After some discussion the committee agreed to use the threshold of 680 and this will be revisited when there is more data.

A member commented that the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) data does not include the score for the Essay portion of the SAT which is required for admission at UC. This is a major shift in procedure and message about the validity of the test and it would be saying that this new version of the SAT without timed writing is valid as an equivalent to the AWPE. Chair Gadda clarified that for many years the English Composition Achievement Test and then the SAT II Writing did have many administrations without an essay and UC has always credited those tests. The old scores of 600 and 680 were always for all forms of that exam whether or not they included an essay section. Chair Queen asked IRAP if the scores on the EBRW were looked at with the scores on the Essay section in comparison to the scores on the AWPE. Analyst Reed explained that the Essay scores and AWPE were analyzed separately from the EBRW scores and agreed that the analysis Chair Queen suggested can be done.

Another question is how long the proposed pilot will be. Chair Queen recommended defining the pilot as this coming admission cycle for 2017-2018, for students enrolling in the fall 2018. Director Chang indicated that typically IRAP analyzes three to five years' worth of data when Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools considers the eligibility index. For UCOPE, the Director agreed that in a year UCOPE will look at the SAT scores and the correlation with students' first year performance. Next year UCOPE will decide to continue the pilot or to institute the threshold of 680 as policy.

There was agreement with the recommendation that the pilot should also include the Essay portion in the pilot assessment. This means that the EBRW plus the essay portion will be studied to help the committee understand how these numbers work together separately and in relationship to the AWPE.

Action: The committee unanimously voted in favor of Recommendation #1. The pilot period is defined as the 2017-2018 admissions cycle. The recommendation was amended with the qualification the pilot will include a study of the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing score, a separate SAT Essay score and the AWPE.

Recommendation #2: Do not use the SAT Essay score as a method for meeting the ELWR until more data are available. Currently available data show that even for a threshold at the highest score of 24, the AWPE passing rate was only 69%. Such a high threshold would not benefit many students, since only 2% of test takers achieved this score.

Discussion: A member commented that this recommendation seems reasonable. Chair Gadda reported having questions about the Essay, in the way that it is designed, as an equivalent to the AWPE and suggested that more evidence is needed before a decision can be made.

Action: The committee unanimously voted in favor of Recommendation #2.

Recommendation #3: Maintain the current threshold of 30 for meeting the ELWR using ACT ELA. Available data for the ACT ELA score show similar results in fall 2017 to the old ACT Combined English/Writing score in fall 2015.

Discussion: This recommendation was also felt to be reasonable by the committee.

Action: The committee unanimously voted in favor of Recommendation #3.

Meeting adjourned at: 12:35 PM
Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams
Attest: Bradley Queen