

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Robert L. Powell
Telephone: (510) 987-0711
Fax: (510) 763-0309
Email: Robert.Powell@ucop.edu

Chair of the Assembly and the Academic Council
Faculty Representative to the Board of Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

June 25, 2013

**JUDY SAKAKI, VICE PRESIDENT
STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Dear Judy:

At its meeting on June 12, the Assembly of the Academic Senate approved BOARS' recommendation to adjust the statewide freshman admissions index to more accurately identify the top 9% of California public high school graduates. BOARS proposed, and Assembly approved, use of the new index beginning with applications received in fall 2014 for enrollment in fall 2015. BOARS letter explaining the rationale for the change is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Powell, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Michael Treviño, Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Academic Council
Martha Winnacker, Senate Executive Director
Michael Labriola, BOARS Analyst

Encl.



BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS (BOARS)

George Johnson, Chair
gjohnson@me.berkeley.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200
Phone: (510) 987-9466
Fax: (510) 763-0309

May 31, 2013

ROBERT POWELL, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Re: Adjustment to the Statewide Admissions Index to Identify Top 9% of CA Public High School Graduates

Dear Bob,

Throughout the 2012-2013 academic year, BOARS has been discussing options for recalibrating the statewide admissions index for freshmen applicants in an effort to return the percentage of California public high school graduates who receive a referral guarantee of UC admission to the 9% level identified in Regents' Policy 2103¹. BOARS first saw the need for such a change in 2012, after it reviewed data indicating that close to 11% of public high school graduates had been identified for a statewide guarantee by the current index. BOARS noted in its October 2012 report to the Regents on Comprehensive Review² that such a recalibration would be necessary in the very near future.

Senate Regulation 466³ states that BOARS, with the concurrence of the Academic Council and the Academic Assembly, is responsible for adjusting the index when appropriate. BOARS has reviewed several options for recalibrating the index, and selected one that we believe would have much more accurately identified the top 9% of public high school graduates who applied to UC for 2013. It appears in the table below.

To be clear, this recalibration will not change the “9x9” policy or alter the target of 9% of public high school graduates who should receive a statewide guarantee. It will only change how those 9% are identified.

The current admissions index is clearly identifying too many students for the statewide guarantee. The admissions reform policy approved by the Regents in 2009 was first applied to the class of freshmen who entered UC in fall 2012, and in that year, the current index identified 43,761 applicants from public high schools for a statewide guarantee, representing 10.6% of the estimated⁴

¹ <http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/policies/2103.html>

² <http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/committees/boars/BOARSREPORTCOMPREHENSIVEREVIEW2012.pdf>

³ <http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/manual/rpart2.html#art4chap3>

⁴ <http://www.dof.ca.gov/research/demographic/reports/projections/k-12/>

411,326 public high school graduates for that year. For the class entering college in 2013, the index identified 45,581 applicants, or 11.1% of public high school graduates. Indeed, for 2013 the current index identified some 8,600 applicants beyond those in the top 9%.

Why did the 2009 academic index fail to meet the 9% target? It was because BOARS developed the index on the basis of data available in 2009 from the most current California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) University Eligibility Study for the Class of 2007. The CPEC study included the best data available, but also known to be an incomplete measure of California high schools in that statewide figures were based on only a sampling of schools.

BOARS estimates that the new index would have reduced the number of students eligible for the statewide guarantee in 2013 by 8,621. However, 2,777 of those students are eligible in the local context (ELC) and would still have a guaranteed offer of admission. Combining students who are guaranteed through the revised statewide index, ELC or both, the new index would have reduced the total number of guarantees by 11.4%, or 5,844 students. Of those 5,844 students who would not have received a guarantee, 3,708 were admitted to at least one campus to which they applied, leaving 2,136 applicants who would not have been in the referral pool under the proposed index.

The effect of the proposed index on diversity is most appropriately examined by considering the percent decrease in different populations of students who were eligible for a referral offer through either the statewide or the local path. Overall, the referral pool for public high school graduates in 2013 would have been reduced by 25.4%, from 8,421 applicants to 6,285, under the proposed index. By ethnicity, referrals to white students would have decreased by 28.3%, to Asian American students by 27.2%, and to underrepresented minority students by 20.6%. The percent decrease is greater for students in high API schools than for those in low API schools, and is greater for students from wealthier families than for students from low-income families. This reflects, to some extent, the fact that there are more high-API and high-income students in the statewide guarantee pool.

BOARS requests that the Academic Assembly approve the use of this index beginning with applications received in fall 2014 for enrollment as freshmen in fall 2015. As you know, the proposed recalibration was approved by the Academic Council in April, along with a recommendation for the change to be implemented immediately (i.e., for students applying in fall 2013). However, BOARS has since learned that it is too late to make such a change for the current admissions cycle due to the coding that would be necessary in the admissions website. We therefore recommend that the change be implemented for students applying in fall 2014.

Sincerely,



George Johnson
BOARS Chair

cc: BOARS
Senate Director Winnacker

Comparison of Current and Proposed New Statewide Admissions Index

If an applicant's UC Score meets or exceeds the minimum score shown in the table below for the applicant's GPA range, he or she will be guaranteed admission to a UC campus.

Weighted High School GPA	Minimum UC Score ⁵	
	Current Index	New Index
3.00 - 3.04	263	277
3.05 - 3.09	261	275
3.10 - 3.14	259	273
3.15 - 3.19	256	270
3.20 - 3.24	254	268
3.25 - 3.29	252	266
3.30 - 3.34	249	263
3.35 - 3.39	246	260
3.40 - 3.44	244	257
3.45 - 3.49	241	254
3.50 - 3.54	238	251
3.55 - 3.59	234	248
3.60 - 3.64	231	245
3.65 - 3.69	228	242
3.70 - 3.74	225	238
3.75 - 3.79	221	235
3.80 - 3.84	217	231
3.85 - 3.89	214	227
3.90 - 3.94	210	224
3.95 - 3.99	206	220
4.00 - 4.04	202	216
4.05 - 4.09	198	212
4.10 - 4.14	193	207
4.15 - 4.19	189	203
4.20 - 4.24	184	198
4.25 - 4.29	180	194
4.30 - 4.34	175	189
4.35 >	171	184

⁵ The UC score may be determined from either SAT scores or ACT scores as given in the admissions index website: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/california-residents/admissions-index/>. For the SAT, the UC Score may be computed as $UC\ Score = 60 + 0.10 * (\text{Math} + \text{Reading} + \text{Writing})$. For the ACT, the UC Score must be determined from the table provided in the admissions index website.