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Steven W. Cheung
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents
Academic Senate

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

senate.universityofcalifornia.edu

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CAMPUSES

Berkeley
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Santa Barbara
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MEDICAL CENTERS

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Irvine
UCLA
San Diego
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NATIONAL LABORATORIES

Lawrence Berkeley
Lawrence Livermore
Los Alamos

April 30, 2025

Michael V. Drake, M.D.
President, University of California

Academic Senate Division Chairs

Re: Assembly Action on Revisions to Academic Senate Bylaw 145

Dear President Drake and Senate Division Chairs,

At its April 23, 2025 meeting, the Assembly of the Academic Senate approved revisions to [Academic Senate Bylaw 145](#). These revisions update the bylaw for the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) to strengthen and clarify BOARS’ responsibilities in its engagement with California K-12 education partners.

The final Assembly vote was 42 in favor and none opposed, with 10 abstentions. The affirmative vote of 80.8% surpassed the two-thirds majority required by [Senate Bylaw 116.E](#) for amending a Senate bylaw.

Specifically, the amendments to Senate Bylaw 145.B.7 codify BOARS’ consultation with the State Board of Education and other K-12 constituent groups. They reflect the Senate’s continued commitment to transparency and coordination between the University and these partners in California K-12. Relatedly, BOARS is delineating guidelines to clarify how this consultation process will proceed.

The amended Senate bylaw and the forthcoming BOARS guidelines are responsive to the formal requests (attached) from the UC Board of Regents, the California Assembly Committee on Higher Education, and the California Assembly Committee on Education.

Thank you for your continued support of the Senate’s efforts to sustain and advance high standards in UC admissions and academic preparation, and to foster strong, collaborative relationships with our state education partners, which are essential to the success of these efforts.

Sincerely,



Steven W. Cheung
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Assembly of the Academic Senate
BOARS Chair Swenson
Provost and Executive Vice President Newman
Secretary and Chief of Staff Lyall
Associate Vice President and Executive Director Yoon-Wu
Senate Division Executive Directors
Senate Executive Director Lin

Senate Bylaw 145 (Showing edits)

<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/bylaws-regulations/bylaws/blpart2.html#bl145>

145. Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools

- A. Membership shall be determined in accordance with Bylaw 128 except that the Chair and Vice Chair, shall normally serve two-year concurrent terms. The Vice Chair shall be chosen in accordance with Bylaw 128.D. One undergraduate and one graduate student shall sit with the Committee. [See [Bylaw 128.E](#) .] (Am 4 May 1995; Am 28 May 2003)
- B. Duties. Consistent with Bylaw 40 the Committee shall: (Am 28 May 2003)
 - 1. Advise the President and appropriate agencies of the Senate on matters relating to admissions of undergraduate students.
 - 2. Recommend to the Assembly the admissions criteria for undergraduate status. (En 28 May 2003)
 - 3. Regulate the examination and classification of all applicants for admission to undergraduate status, and report thereon to the Assembly, including the authority, in exceptional case, to admit applicants with minor deficiencies. (Am 26 May 82: Am 28 May 2003)
 - 4. Maintain the standard of preparation required of students who enter the University directly from California secondary schools in the course of passing on applications for advanced standing from other colleges and universities. Advanced standing credit is granted for work of quality comparable to that required of students in this University.
 - 5. Require secondary schools in California whose graduates are to be admitted on a transcript to submit for approval a list of those courses certified by the school as fulfilling the subject

requirements for admission. The committee shall review these courses annually. If the studies outlined in 145.B.76 below indicate that such action is advisable, it may require that applicants from certain **secondary** schools take examinations established by the Board as a condition for admission. (Am 26 May 82)

6. Require secondary schools in California whose graduates are to be admitted on a transcript to submit for approval a list of those courses certified by the school as honors level courses in history/**social science**, English, **advanced** mathematics, **laboratory** science, ~~and foreign~~ language other than English, **visual and performing arts**, and **college-preparatory electives**. The committee shall review these courses annually. (En 26 May 82)
7. Compile information on curricula and scholarship standards in California secondary schools. **The committee shall consult with representatives from the State Board of Education and K-12 subject matter specialists on proposed changes to course requirements for undergraduate admissions. On authorization by the President**; The committee shall confer **as needed** with representatives of **University campus** schools and colleges on appropriate scholastic matters. It shall annually report to the Assembly statistical information about applicants admitted to advanced standing, and about the scholastic achievements of students admitted as freshmen; and at appropriate intervals it shall report on its policies and practices regarding admissions, specifying exceptions to Senate Regulations that have been permitted. (Am 15 Jun 71, 28 May 80, 26 May 82)



California Legislature

February 3, 2025

Board of Regents, University of California Office of the Secretary, and
Chief of Staff to the Regents
1111 Franklin St, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Regents:

As the Chairs of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and Education, with primary jurisdiction over K-12 and postsecondary education, we are submitting this letter as a formal request for the University of California Board of Regents (UC Regents) to adhere to Regents Policy 2102 by voting on whether the changes to the conditions for enrollment for Area C, as proposed by the University of California Board of Relations with Schools (UC BOARS), should be implemented, and if approved, delayed to the 2028-2029 academic year.

Pursuant to Regent Policy 2102, the Academic Senate determines the conditions for admission, subject to the approval of the Board of Regents. UC BOARS has unanimously voted to exclude data science and statistics as “advanced mathematics” courses for purposes of admission. Such an exclusion constitutes a change and therefore, in accordance with its own policies, the UC Regents should have voted on whether the change should be implemented.

On July 07, 2023, UC BOARS unanimously voted for data science courses to no longer be considered as a replacement course for Algebra II for incoming University of California applicants, and further voted to create a workgroup to determine which high school mathematics courses would be considered “advanced mathematics courses” or adequate replacements for Algebra II. Subsequent reports published by the UC BOARS workgroup determined that, beginning in the fall of 2025, neither data science nor statistics would be considered a suitable replacement for Algebra II for purposes of fulfilling the math requirements, for admission to the University of California. Such a decision has tremendous impact for K-12 students seeking to meet graduation requirements and admissions requirements to both the California State University and the University of California.

Without consulting the State Board of Education, UC BOARS changed the eligibility criteria for securing admission to the University of California. Between July 07, 2023 and March 20, 2024, the UC Regents had several meetings at which the UC BOARS decision was discussed. Findings from the UC BOARS workgroup on what would constitute “advanced math courses” were

presented on two separate occasions, at which the UC Regents asked numerous questions which were left unanswered. To date, a vote of the full board of the UC Regents to approve the changes in the criteria for admission has not occurred.

On October 10, 2024, the Assembly Committees on Higher Education and Education convened a joint hearing to provide the University of California an opportunity to explain the changes, rationale, and the intended goal of the changes to the Area C mathematics admission criteria. During the course of the hearing the following became clear to the Committees:

1. UC BOARS made the admission criteria change due to concerns regarding the preparation of students for the academic rigor of the UC;
2. The UC did not follow its own policies for criteria changes to admission requirements; and,
3. The UC BOARS decision will greatly impact K-12 curriculum implementation of the new mathematics framework and has left the K-12 community in a state of confusion with little to no time to implement the changes required by UC BOARS.

The precedent set by the decision to change the Area C course criteria undermines the collaborative relationship between K-12 and postsecondary education in the academic preparation of high school students for collegiate work. To quote the previous Chair of the BOARS Committee during a recent UC Regents meeting, “any substantive change to the admission requirements [to the UC] would require collaboration, alignment and shared goals with kindergarten to postsecondary levels.” To this end, the University of California should partner with K-12 and with the broader higher education community in the decision to change the admissions criteria.

To rectify the concerns addressed during the oversight hearing on October 10, 2024, the Chairs of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and Education respectfully request that the UC Regents formally respond by February 23, 2025 as to whether the UC Regents will vote on whether the changes to the conditions for enrollment for Area C, as proposed by the UC BOARS, will be approved, and if approved, delayed to the 2028-2029 academic year.

Sincerely,



Mike Fong
Chair, Assembly Committee on
Higher Education



Al Muratsuchi
Chair, Assembly Committee on Education

cc: Members, Assembly Committee on Higher Education
Members, Assembly Committee on Education
University of California President, Dr. Michael. V. Drake

University of California Associate Vice President and Director of State Government Relations,
Kathleen Fullerton
University of California Associate Director, Legislative Affairs, Jason Murphy



THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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February 24, 2025

PRESIDENT DRAKE
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR CHEUNG

Dear President Drake and Chair Cheung:

The Regents recently received a letter from Assemblymembers Fong and Muratsuchi, Chairs of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education and the Assembly Committee on Education, respectively, regarding the University of California's Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) and its updates to the definition of courses that fulfill the UC's mathematics admission requirements. The letter urged the Regents to formally vote on these changes and, if approved, to delay implementation until the 2028-29 academic year. The legislators also expressed concern about BOARS' lack of consultation with K-12 stakeholders and the State Board of Education.

We assured Assemblymembers Fong and Muratsuchi that there has been no change to the mathematics admissions requirements as outlined in [Regents Policy 2102](#): Policy on Undergraduate Admissions and that any substantive modifications would require an amendment of Regents Policy 2102 and approval by the Board.

To address their concerns about student eligibility and provide California high schools with additional time to adjust their curricula, we informed them that the University administration will postpone implementation of the changes by one year so that this change would take effect for students applying in fall 2026 for enrollment in the 2027-2028 academic year. We ask that you direct the appropriate University offices to communicate this implementation delay broadly to high school counselors and administrators.


We also share the Assemblymembers' view that stronger collaboration between the University and its K-12 partners and greater consultation between BOARS and the State Board of Education on admissions policy changes is critical. We understand that BOARS plans to reinstate its prior practice of engaging a broad range of stakeholders and that you support codifying consultation processes in Academic Senate Bylaws and BOARS guidelines to ensure greater transparency in future deliberations and decisions. In addition, to address issues of transparency, we expect UC to provide an opportunity for public comment on any changes to admissions policy or its implementation. We ask that that BOARS and University undergraduate admissions personnel review the consultation process and present to the May meeting of the Academic and Student

Affairs Committee a proposed new process for robust K-12 consultation, as we have assured Assemblymembers Fong and Muratsuchi that these measures will be formalized in policy. We are encouraged that BOARS recently had a productive meeting with State Board of Education President Linda Darling-Hammond to discuss these issues, marking an important step toward stronger collaboration.

We understand that Assemblymembers Fong and Muratsuchi are considering legislation to ensure public participation and stakeholder collaboration in BOARS' future deliberations. While we recognize the importance of confidentiality in policy development, we also believe in the value of meaningful engagement. To that end, taking proactive steps to enhance transparency and collaboration with K-12 partners, the broader professional community of educators, and the public will help address these concerns, potentially eliminating the need for legislative action while preserving BOARS' ability to confer in closed session as appropriate.

We appreciate your prompt attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rich Leib".

Rich Leib, Chair
Academic and Student Affairs Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MA".

Maria Anguiano, Vice Chair
Academic and Student Affairs Committee

cc: Chair Reilly
Provost and Executive Vice President Newman
Associate Vice President and Director, State Government Relations Fullerton