August 2, 2021

MICHAEL DRAKE, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Financial Support for Campus Admission Offices

Dear President Drake,

At its July 2021 meeting, the Academic Council endorsed the attached letter from the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) asking the University to increase budget and staffing support for campus admission offices. The letter notes that the workload of admission staff increased significantly this year as applications to UC rose following the elimination of the standardized testing requirement and as public scrutiny of admission practices increased. Additional support and resources are needed to fund training for readers of the applications. These funds will also enable continuation and development of the innovative outreach and data analysis activities that help UC admission professionals understand the local context of applicants they are reviewing.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Mary Gauvain, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: BOARS
Provost Brown
Executive Director Yoon-Wu
Academic Council
Chief of Staff Kao
Campus Senate Directors
Senate Director Baxter

Encl.
MARY GAUVAIN, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Financial Support for Campus Admission Offices

Dear Mary,

The Board of Admission and Relations with Schools (BOARS) meets regularly with the admission directors (ADs) from the nine UC undergraduate campuses. During our most recent consultation, the ADs reported unanimously that their offices were unprecedentedly overworked and understaffed. As applicants for the first time last fall did not have to submit standardized test scores, and possibly as an impact of COVID, UC saw undergraduate applications increase from their already high numbers. Most campuses use two human readers to assess applications, but finding and training such readers is expensive and time consuming. Further, admission office staff FTE have remained flat for years, even as admitted classes have grown and the number of applications has grown. Given the need to increase diversity in the application pool and the admitted class, admission offices have had to hire experts, leaving other positions unfilled, often in data analytics areas. The stresses of leading these offices have led several ADs to move on to other areas of the University.

Given the public and political scrutiny of UC admission practices, BOARS thinks it is essential that local admission offices receive budgets commensurate to their workloads. We ask the Council Chair to help advocate for this support with the President and Provost, and division chairs to advocate for this support locally.

Thank you for your support,

Sincerely,

Eddie Comeaux
BOARS Chair

cc: Members of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)
Executive Director Baxter
GUAE Executive Director Yoon-Wu