COMMITTEE ON ADMISSIONS, ENROLLMENT, AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS
ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Executive Summary

Purpose (per Bylaw 87): To set standards and criteria for undergraduate admissions and monitor campus efforts to recruit and enroll an excellent and diverse undergraduate student body.

Issues of General Concern to Faculty:

- CAERS consulted with various administrators regarding the need for enrollment strategies that effectively respond to imbalances between student demand and the availability of academic resources.
- CAERS drafted a letter of concern to the Chair of the Board of Admissions, Enrollment, and Relations with Schools (BOARS) regarding the UC Transfer Guarantee.

CAERS held 13 regularly scheduled 90-minute meetings during the 2017-18 academic year and consulted with relevant campus administrators regarding specific issues within its purview. The Committee met with Executive Vice Chancellor David Marshall, Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education Jeffrey Stopple, Executive Dean Pierre Wiltzius, and Dean of Social Sciences Charlie Hale. The committee benefits from the expertise of several regular consultants who assist CAERS in monitoring and guiding UCSB’s admission and enrollment efforts. All of the committee’s deliberations were informed by relevant UCSB and/or systemwide student data.

Campus Issues

English Language Proficiency Assessments for International Students

CAERS revisited its discussion from previous years regarding the importance of ensuring that incoming international students have sufficient language skills to be successful at UCSB. The Office of Admissions displayed sample videos from the Duolingo English Test, to provide members with an idea of the different language abilities of prospective students. The Committee plans to examine the assessment data and hold further discussions in 2018-19 about how the campus might implement an English language assessment tool.

Weighting for the Academic Score in Comprehensive Review

Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment (IRPA) reported to the Committee regarding the components of the Admissions Decision Model (ADM) and how they are weighted. High school GPA and SAT scores are used as a predictor of student success. A regression model is applied to UCSB first-year GPAs to obtain the percentage weighting for the academic components. High school GPA is still the strongest predictor of success, though SAT predictors are rising. When UC stopped including AP scores with applications, a flag was added for AP courses taken and some weight is given for those. The Office of Admissions gave a brief update regarding application numbers. UCSB was 200 short of 110,000 applications (92,000 freshmen), which means admissions will be highly selective. We had the most
application growth of all UCs. Freshman applications increased dramatically, which included increases in applications from African American, Latino/a, and American Indian Students.

Guiding Principles on Notification of Changes to Major Preparation Requirements for Transfer Students

CAERS received a statement endorsed by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) on Guiding Principles on Notification of Changes to Major Preparation Requirements for Transfer Students. One of the main principles states that curricular modifications should be announced no less than two academic years prior to the effective date for students already enrolled at the UC campus. UCSB has followed this practice for many years and will continue to do so.

Selection Criteria for School Context - Fall 2009

UCSB reserves a number of admissions spaces at every regionally accredited California high school with a graduating class greater than 50. The most highly ranked students from each school fill the spaces until the school reaches its maximum. The campus has established a floor for School Context, based on the Admissions Decision Model (ADM), an academic index score which includes grades and test scores. The last study on the floor for school context was conducted in 2009. Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment (IRAP) periodically examines measures of success for students who were near the floor to determine whether there was a higher percentage of problems with retention or academic probation in this population. The study also examines whether raising the floor would artificially eliminate students that could be successful. Students selected through the School Context program are recruited earlier and often invited to the Chancellor’s Regional Receptions.

CAERS agreed to revisit this issue in the future.

Update on Consultation with the College of Engineering

Representatives from CAERS held a meeting with the College of Engineering (COE) to discuss the balance between enrollment in the (COE) and the College of Letters and Science (L&S). Overall, the University has experienced a period of growth that has resulted in student enrollment disparities and impacted departments, particularly in the Division of Mathematical, Life, and Physical Sciences. Given the demand for COE majors, CAERS inquired about the possibility of the College increasing its undergraduate enrollment. Though additional resources would be required to expand the respective degree programs, CAERS felt strongly that the campus should examine models for moving in this direction.

UC Transfer Guarantee

In early March, President Napolitano issued a directive to the Academic Senate to formulate a plan that would guarantee UC admission to qualified community college transfer students. President Napolitano and California Community College (CCC) Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to confirm the agreement. CAERS questioned the lack of consultation with the Academic Senate and admissions leaders across the system. The Committee drafted a memo of concern to the Chair of BOARS, which also included numerous questions that the members raised regarding the content of the agreement (e.g. GPA, academic preparation, choice of major, connection with existing programs such as the Transfer Admission Guarantee, etc.).
CAERS will closely follow and participate in discussions regarding the UC Transfer Guarantee in 2018-19.

**Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG)**

CAERS performs an annual review of the TAG program to determine how well the program is working and whether any aspects of the program need to be adjusted (such as the minimum GPA). The Office of Admissions reported that twenty percent of our transfer applications are associated with the TAG program, and that students who enter UCSB through TAG do very well. Members agreed that no adjustments were needed at this time. Members also remarked that the development of the UC Transfer Guarantee is likely to cause confusion, as students, parents, and counselors navigate the related programs such as TAG and the Transfer Pathways.

The Committee will continue to monitor this issue throughout 2018-19.

**Proposed Divisional Bylaw 35.K. on Conflict of Interest**

The Academic Senate proposed a new Divisional Bylaw regarding conflict of interest, in alignment with the recently approved Senate Bylaw 128. CAERS voiced no objections to the proposed language unanimously endorsed the bylaw.

**SAT and ACT Essay Test**

A number of high-profile institutions have recently eliminated their requirement of the essay portion of the SAT and ACT. The University has been receiving inquiries about the requirement; counselors would like to know if the UC plans to follow suit. Institutional Research, Planning, and Assessment indicated that the older version of the SAT essay was predictive of student success, though the new version has not been utilized long enough to produce meaningful data. Members noted that BOARS will likely take up the issue in 2018-19, and CAERS will certainly follow the discussion.

**Compare Favorably Report**

CAERS reported to BOARS that UCSB continues to be “an overwhelmingly California-centric campus with total campus enrollment at 86.7% residents,” and that first-year, out-of-state domestic and international students who enrolled at UCSB in fall 2016 did “compare favorably” with enrolled California residents. For fall 2016 the average academic index scores, average GPAs and average test scores for both non-resident groups exceeded that of California admits across all three measures. The rising volume of applications received by UCSB has contributed to an increasing level of selectivity for all categories of applicants.

**Systemwide Issues**

As UCSB’s representative on the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), Madeleine Sorapure, regularly updated the Committee regarding issues that were being addressed by BOARS.

Along with other Senate councils and committees, members of UgC were invited to review materials pertaining to the following systemwide issues:
1. Procedures for Senate and Non-Senate Faculty Violations of SVSH Policy
2. Proposed Amendment of Senate Bylaw 128 – Conflict of Interest
3. Proposed Changes to Senate Regulation 424A.3 – Area D Laboratory Science

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