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 EVC David Marshall and various academic deans regarding the need for enrollment strategies that effectively respond to imbalances between student demand and the availability of academic resources.

- CAERS revised the UCSB Guidelines for Admission of Athletes and instituted a process whereby a designated representative of CAERS is consulted in cases where faculty input is deemed appropriate within the context of reviewing applications of student athletes.

CAERS held 14 regularly scheduled 90-minute meetings during the 2014-15 academic year. Members are carefully trained with regard to admissions policy and procedures and are aided by the participation of several regular consultants who assist the Committee in monitoring and guiding UCSB’s admission and enrollment efforts. All of the committee’s deliberations are informed by reliable UCSB and/or systemwide student data.

Campus Issues

Enrollment Concerns

Representatives of CAERS met with Rod Alferness, Dean of the College of Engineering, to follow-up on earlier communication about persistently low enrollment targets for engineering majors, which have been accompanied by annual increases in the number of highly qualified engineering applicants who are being denied admission. The Dean informed the Committee that increases in undergraduate enrollment targets will require new resources. When CAERS approached EVC Marshal about this issue, he reminded the Committee that enrolling more engineering applicants would increase the number of students competing for seats in already impacted L&S science courses. He acknowledged that this is a critical time for the campus to develop strategies for enrollment growth. CAERS recommended that the need for growth in engineering be addressed within the context of campuswide planning activities. The Committee was subsequently informed that Dean Alferness had asked engineering departments to define the resources that would be needed to accommodate increased enrollment and to submit this information along with FTE plans.
CAERS also consulted the EVC about enrollment concerns in the College of Letters and Science, with particular emphasis on how the campus should address problems associated with heavily impacted majors, and what measures might be effective in promoting a somewhat more even distribution of undergraduate students across academic departments.

International Students

CAERS was represented at a meeting that was jointly convened by the EVC and Senate Chair for the purpose of discussing various matters related to increased enrollment of international students at UCSB. Relevant information was shared by participants from multiple campus units and Senate groups. No action items resulted, and there are no current plans to reconvene this particular group. It was agreed, however, that there is a need for ongoing, broad consultation regarding such topics as: support services for international students; inadequate and falsely represented language skills; competition for access to courses in impacted majors that are of particular interest to international students; and future enrollment targets for international students.

The admission of non-resident students is a revenue stream issue that CAERS is expected to support so as to ensure that UCSB meets both its resident and non-resident targets. The appropriate balance of California residents, out-of-state domestic students, and international students is an ongoing concern that CAERS continues to evaluate.

UCSB Extension

CAERS met with Michael Brown, Dean of UCSB Extension, to discuss matters of shared concern and to follow up on a previous meeting that was called by the Senate Chair to explore the potential for developing more effective ties between Extension and the Senate. CAERS sought responses from the Dean on such topics as strategic planning, reporting structure, funding model, advertising, admission standards and procedures, and student advising. Of particular interest to the committee were: inadequacies in the academic preparedness of some Extension students; competition between matriculated and Extension students for seats in oversubscribed courses; the need for improved communication with faculty regarding enrollment of Extension students; and the potential for broader Senate engagement. CAERS will be interested to see what the Senate leadership decides to do regarding the development of closer ties with UCSB Extension.

Guidelines for Admission of Student Athletes

CAERS reviewed data comparing SAT scores, high school GPAs, and graduation rates of athletes admitted through the regular admit process, athletes admitted by exception, and non-athletes. Following thorough discussion and analysis, the Committee unanimously agreed that the minimum GPA for athletes should be increased. This change and other revisions were made to the Guidelines for Admission of Athletes. It was also agreed that input will be sought from a designated CAERS faculty member in cases where it is difficult to determine whether or not an athlete should be admitted.
Upcoming Academic Year

CAERS initiated in a number of discussions that will continue to be addressed during the 2015-16 academic year, including how the redesigned SAT will be used within UCSB’s Admissions Decision Model. CAERS will further address: matters related to the use of Advanced Placement exams in Transfer Admission Agreements; concerns about use of the School Context Pathway within the College of Engineering admissions process; and changes in the Academic Performance Index scoring method. CAERS also plans to seek consultation with the Undergraduate Council and the Committee on International Education regarding areas of overlapping purview.

Systemwide Issues

As UCSB’s representative on the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), CAERS Chair Vickie Scott regularly updated the Committee regarding issues that were being addressed by BOARS, some of which are discussed below.

Proposal for Adjusting the Eligibility Construct

CAERS considered a proposal from BOARS requesting revisions to the eligibility construct that would more accurately match the total number of eligible (guaranteed) students with the policy target of 10% of public high school graduates, and reduce the referral pool to more manageable levels. Along with other UC campuses, CAERS responded that the proposed changes would compromise diversity and cause excess confusion when explaining the complexities of the new construct to the public. CAERS suggested alternatives, but the proposal was tabled for the time being, once it was determined that a major concern the proposal was designed to address was not as severe as previously anticipated.

Compare Favorably Report

CAERS reported to BOARS that UCSB continues to be “an overwhelmingly California-centric campus with total campus enrollment at more than 88% residents,” and that first-year, out-of-state and international students who enrolled on our campus for Fall 2014 did “compare favorably” with our California residents. Average GPAs and standardized test scores for California resident, out-of-state, and international applicants were all within the same ranges, and out-of-state and international applicants, on average, matched or exceeded the academic measures of the California resident students. The rising volume of applications received by UCSB has contributed to an increasing level of selectivity for all categories of applicants.

“a-g” Requirements

BOARS considers “a-g” course requirements on an ongoing basis. Particular attention was given this year to area “d” where earth science is again being considered for inclusion. It has been recommended that all “d” courses be lab focused, with the labs being analytical and student interactive.
**Transfer Streamlining Project**

As an outcome of budget related negotiations between Gov. Brown and UC President Napolitano, all campuses were asked to send departmental representatives to a set of meetings held at the Office of the President for the purpose of determining a common set of preparatory courses for 10 of the most popular majors offered on UC campuses. CAERS compared the resulting proposed pathways with already existing lists of preparatory courses recommended by UCSB departments for the 10 majors in question. Few differences were found, and CAERS endorsed the 10 new systemwide transfer pathways. Meetings with be held in Fall 2015 to carry out this process for another 11 majors, and again in Winter 2016 for an additional set of 11 majors.

**CAERS Members:**

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