Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid
2007-2008 Annual Report

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:
The Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) submits its report of activities for the academic year 2007-08.

I. Council Operations
George Tita, Associate Professor of Criminology, Law & Society in the School of Social Ecology, chaired the Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) in 2007-08. The Council met six times during the year. The meetings were attended by nine elected members, the Acting Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships (ex officio), the Associate Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education (ex officio), the Librarians’ Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, and the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI) Representative, the Associate Director and Senior Honors Advisor for the Campuswide Honors Program, the Associate Director and Articulation Officer from the Office of Admissions & Relations with Schools, and the coordinator from the Scholarship Opportunities Program. BUSHFA reports to the Council on Student Experience (CSE) and the BUSHFA Chair is an ex officio member of CSE.

II. Divisional Issues/Policies
A. Undergraduate Scholarship Realignment Proposal (October, 2007)
The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships proposed a scholarship realignment plan. The proposal re-aligns the Regents and Chancellor scholarships in order to expand the yield rate of scholarship students by modestly lowering the GPA and test requirements in order to attract slightly more-3.5 to 5.0%--of the top incoming freshmen. It is expected that this plan would increase the yield rate among these top students. In order fund the increased number of freshmen with scholarships, the scholarship amount to each recipient would be reduced from approximately 8000 to 9000 dollars to 2500 to 3500 dollars, with 1000 dollars given during the summer quarter.

B. Discussion on what will be done with the fifty (50) scholarship students who were previously selected by the Office of Admissions (before comprehensive review) (November, 2007)
Before comprehensive review was used to admit UCI students, the top 500 students were selected based on a GPA/SAT index score. To be in alignment with comprehensive review, it has become more difficult to select the top 500 students, so students were taken from the tops of Cohort A (750 students) and Cohort B (150 students) and 50 students were picked by Admissions. With the proposed Scholarship Alignment program, picking the top fifty students by admissions would not be necessary because these extra fifty would fall outside of the top students from Cohorts A, B, and C. Because so many more students (2000) will be selected from Cohorts, A, B, and C and offered scholarships, there is no reason to look for fifty additional students who may have fallen through the cracks. 45 of these 50 would be offered scholarships under the new scholarship alignment proposal anyway.

C. Enrollment Target discussion, Brent Yunek (November, 2007)
For AY2007-08, 4800 freshman enrolled at UC Irvine, which is a higher number than the target number. The transfer enrollment number was lower despite a higher target for this cohort. Not as many transfer students were admitted because freshman enrollment was higher than expected and the Office of Admissions wanted to avoid significant overall undergraduate enrollment.

D. Assignment of scholarship applications to BUSHFA members, April 2008
The scholarship applications were significantly narrowed from a total of 1300 scholarship applications. They were limited to no more than 12 applications per scholarship. BUSHFA members divided review groups and selected applicant recipients (usually one or two) for the 14 scholarships.

E. Latin Honors Procedures (April, May 2008)
As mandated in Regulation 415 of the Irvine Academic Senate Manual, Latin Honors will be calculated using grades in the final quarter of senior year. Previously the final quarter was not used in calculating Latin Honors. BUSHFA asked that schools do a comparative study in the Fall of 2008 to determine how difficult or easy it was for schools to stay within the 12% guidelines while remaining fair to students. The Office of the Registrar will help BUSHFA with this study.

For the graduating class of 2007-2008, projections in May 2008 showed that all schools except Bio Sci and ICS had selected students who fall within the 12% cutoff. ICS will remove some students from the Latin Honors list so that only the top 12% will receive Latin Honors. The reason for the higher projections from ICS is that ninety students who were planning to graduate are not graduating. ICS will make adjustments to keep within guidelines. The School of Biological Sciences was not proposing cuts (as of May, 2008) to keep within the 12% guidelines. Bio Sci had already told students that they may receive Honors. For Bio Sci to take away Honors from these students would mean that the school would have to readjust the GPA cutoff. According to the Office of the Registrar, some deviation from the 12% cutoff will have to be tolerated over the next few years as Schools go through a transition period and learn how to use the model more accurately.

F. Honors Experience Day Discussion (May 2008)
Honors Experience Day (March 2008) was attended by a thousand people, 441 were students. Students attended a lecture of their choice, arranged by topic. 100 current CHP students volunteered to help. Some suggestions to improve Honors Experience Day include using more conspicuous color coding so that students can identify schools from the start of the event. Color coding might also be worn by faculty. A banner designating the location of the school’s booths would help orient people. More current CHP students should make themselves available for interacting with prospective students.

G. Final results of Scholarship Alignment Program for upcoming AY2008-09
For 08-09, the Chancellor’s scholarship has been eliminated and the Regents Freshmen yield is (5.7%) (132). The planned yield for Regents students was 8.7% (200). The scholarship yield for 07-08 was the following:

- Regents Freshmen: 5.6% (57) of offers accepted.
- Regents Transfer: 36.4% (36) of offers accepted.
- Chancellor’s Freshmen: 6.9% (19) of offers accepted.
Chancellor’s Transfer 11% (11) of offers accepted.

III. Recommendations for AY 2008-09
A. It was suggested at the end of AY06-07 that BUSHFA look at the balance of scholarship offers between freshmen and transfers students. Scholarship offers tend to be heavily skewed towards freshmen, while financial incentives tend to be more important to transfers. Data on how transfer students perform once they are enrolled at UCI, compared to entering freshmen, may help guide the Board on where to focus the University’s resources.
B. Members recommended that there should be different criterion for Latin Honors for transfer students.
C. BUSHFA will approve the Latin Honors final list for AY 2007-2008.
D. Members in 05-06 were interested in reviewing the broader guidelines used to determine aid packages to incoming students. While time constraints did not allow for this review during 2006/07 or 2007/08 the Board may still want to pursue this topic during 2008/09.

IV. Guests
- Elizabeth Bennett, Registrar
- Roger McWilliams, Associate Vice Chancellor, Financial Aid and Scholarships
- Brent Yunek, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Enrollment Services

V. Members
George Tita, Chair, Social Ecology
Mary Corey, Arts
Bradford Hawkins, Biological Sciences
Jean-Daniel Saphores, Engineering
Regina Ragan, Engineering
Alejandro Morales, Humanities
Laura O’Connor, Humanities
Ian Harris, Information & Computer Science
Zachary Fisk, Physical Sciences/Biological Sciences
Katherine Faust, Social Sciences

Ex Officio
Sharon Salinger, Dean of Undergraduate Education
Rudi Berkelhamer, Associate Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education

Consultants
Susan Csikesz, Senior Honors Advisor, Campuswide Honors Program
Lisa Roetzel, Associate Director, Campuswide Honors Program
Chris Schultz, Acting Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships
Chau Luu, Scholarship Coordinator, Financial Aid and Scholarships
Deborah Brandon, Associate Director, Admissions & Relations with Schools
Rebecca Harris, Director, Scholarship Opportunities Program

Representatives
Linda Murphy, Librarians’ Association University of California, Irvine
Rosa Erandi Zamora, Associated Students University of California, Irvine
Analyst
Michelle AuCoin