Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid  
2012-2013 Annual Report

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:  
The Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2012-13.

I. Council Operations
Kathleen Johnson, Assistant Professor of Earth System Science in the School of Physical Sciences, chaired the Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) in 2012-13. The Council met seven times during the year. The meetings were attended by ten elected members, the 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, Admissions & Relations with Schools, and the Director, 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. Latin Honors
For undergraduates, UC Irvine has a cap on the number of students that can receive Latin Honors for graduation broken into three categories: honors (top 5 - 12%), high honors (top 2 - 4%), and highest honors (top 1%). No more than 12% of a school’s graduating class can be awarded honors. BUSHFA noted no significant issues with the honors awarded for 2011-12 and voted to accept all school percentages. BUSHFA continues to monitor the honors awarded each year and will address any future issues as they arise. 
(BUSHFA Meeting – 11/28/12)

B. Restricted Scholarships
The Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship received approximately 3,900 on-line restricted scholarship applications for 2013-14. The scholarship applications were pre-screened and reduced for final review by BUSHFA members. The review groups assessed the applications online. After the review process, Board members made three suggestions for improving the review process: to convert the ranking system from ABC to a numerical system with a larger range, to list the number of scholarships in each category available to be awarded online, and to expand the three reader review system used for the Dan and Jean Aldrich, Nicholas Aeberhard, Dr. John R. Miltner, and the Dr. John R. Miltner/Irvine Health Foundation applications to all award categories. Members will hold a formal vote Fall 2013 to amend the review process. 
(BUSHFA Meeting – 04/24/13 & 05/29/13)

C. Elected Chair for 2013-14
Lorenzo Valdevit was elected chair for 2013-14.
III. Systemwide Senate Issues
A. UC'S Undergraduate Financial Funding Policies and Strategies
   Three options for setting UC’s financial aid commitment starting in 2014-15 was forwarded to the Board for formal review. The options provided alternatives to the status quo, in which UC would continue its current revenue-driven financial aid strategy of augmenting existing UC grants by an amount equal to 33% of new systemwide undergraduate tuition and fee revenue. Board members favored Option A over Options B and C. Members felt Option A provided the best solution for our financial aid strategy, offering a solution that sets a clear and fair benchmark for manageable debt, thus strongly benefitting low and middle income students.

   BUSHFA members noted the three options presented were predicated on a fee increase and felt given the unpredictable economic climate and possibility of tuition freezes, alternative plans should be explored to address such an outcome.  

   (BUSHFA Meeting – 03/13/13) (BUSHFA Memo – 03/19/13)

IV. Guests
   Elizabeth Bennett, University Registrar

V. Members
   Kathleen Johnson, Chair, Physical Sciences
   Miles Corwin, Humanities
   Sara Goodman, Social Sciences
   John Guzowski, Biological Sciences
   Stanislaw Jarecki, Information and Computer Sciences
   Melissa Mazmanian, Information and Computer Sciences
   Fabio Milani, Social Sciences
   Alessandra Pantano, Physical Sciences
   Keramet Reiter, Social Ecology
   Darryl Taylor, Arts
   Lorenzo Valdevit, Engineering
   Yu Zhang, Business

Ex-Officio
   Rudi Berkelhammer, Associate Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education
   Thomas Parham, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

Consultants
   Christine Cha, Scholarships Coordinator, Financial Aid and Scholarships
   Rebecca Harris, Director, Scholarship Opportunities Program
   Chau Luu, Assistant Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships
   David Naimie, Associate Director, Admissions and Relations with Schools
   Lisa Roetzel, Associate Director, Campuswide Honors Program
   Chris Shultz, Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships

Representatives
   Katherine Harvey, Librarians’ Association, University of California, Irvine
   Rida Sakil, Associated Students, University of California, Irvine