

Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid 2008-2009 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 2008-09.

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 2008-09. The Council met four times during the year. The meetings were attended by nine elected members, the Acting Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships (ex officio), the Associate Dean and Assistant Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education (ex officio), the Librarians' Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI) Representative, the Associate Director for the Campuswide Honors Program, the Articulation Officer from the Office of Admissions & Relations with Schools, and the Assistant Director and 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. Discussion and comment on Accountability Standards: Undergraduate Affordability (October, 2008)

BUSHFA reviewed the University-wide indicators for undergraduate affordability, and it was observed that UCI's student population, compared to other UCs, represent higher family income levels (134K and more). The opposite trend is occurring at Berkeley and UCLA where students from the upper income ranges represent a smaller fraction of the overall student population. Additionally, the percentage of students from the lowest income level (45K and less) is falling at UCI. After reviewing data from the past five years on demographic profiles of incoming freshmen, it appears that too little information is available to determine whether or not these observations are part of a growing trend. The fact that higher income students are choosing UCI may be the result of unintended consequences of rising academic standards at UCI and/or the fact that lower income students may be choosing other campuses over UCI.

B. Discussion and comment on Blue and Gold Materials: UC President Yudof's financial aid proposal to provide financial aid for all students whose families earn under 60K (January, 2009)

BUSHFA reviewed and commented on the proposal which would ensure financial aid for all students whose families make sixty thousand dollars or under per year. BUSHFA members agreed that this is an excellent public relations message to send to California families but acknowledge that under the current system these students already receive financial aid, and few students additional would benefit from the new plan. In addition, the implementation of this plan on top of the current financial aid model merely complicates the formulas used to calculate a student's financial aid need. BUSHFA was also concerned that the "return to aid" percentage of 36% (from 33%) was not nearly enough to cover growing costs which requires a 40% return.

C. Review of Principles for Non Resident Enrollment at UC (May, 2009)

The Board was asked to review principles for increasing the enrollment of non-California residents (from the US and abroad.) Overall, the responses of BUSHFA members were mixed. Given the current economic situation, UCI (and all other UCs) would clearly benefit financially as these students are always net payers. Attracting students from beyond California's borders would also raise the awareness and profile of UCI. This is especially true in those cases where foreign students return to high-profile positions within their native country. Another benefit of drawing from a larger pool of applicants is that we may be able to increase overall diversity.

The obvious drawback is that increasing non-California admissions could infringe on the number of CA residents that are accepted despite the resident targets that are always in place. Also, given that most non-resident students at UC are not drawn from historically under represented groups, increasing non-resident applications/admissions could potentially reduce diversity.

III. Local issues/Policies

A. Transfer Merit Based Scholarship Selection Proposal (October, 2008)

To enhance the number of academically deserving transfer students to attend UCI, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will invite honors transfer students from six local community colleges. For admittance into the transfer merit based scholarship program, these students would be required to have a 3.5 GPA, would be offered admission into UCI's Campuswide Honors Program and would receive stipends of \$2,500.00 or more depending on need. This proposal was unanimously supported by BUSHFA members and the UCI Cabinet. By the end of AY08-09, yield numbers indicated that the program was successful in attracting these students to UCI.

B. Latin Honors: Feedback from Schools (March, 2009).

A year ago, at the end of AY 07-08, Schools were required for the first time to include the final quarter of senior year grades in calculating GPA which would, in turn, determine whether a student was eligible to receive Academic (Latin) Honors. BUSHFA members appreciate the time constraint and estimation challenges Schools would endure to integrate the final quarter's grades into the overall GPA.

BUSHFA praised the Schools' efforts to stay within the 12% guidelines for awarding Latin Honors and asked Schools to provide feedback about difficulties that may have arisen during the selection process for Latin Honors. BUSHFA received virtually no feedback from Schools about the process and thus presumes that the Latin Honors calculation methods are within the Schools' capabilities.

Latin Honors estimates for AY09-10 show that all schools except for Biological Sciences and ICS fall within the 12% guidelines. While it is strongly advised that all Schools stay within the guidelines, BUSHFA understands that some Schools may have difficulty keeping within the new guidelines and need to go through a transition period before the model can be used more accurately.

C. Medal Proceeds to Financial Aid were cut off by Advancement (April, 2009).

BUSHFA wrote a memo to Vice Chancellor of Advancement, Thomas Mitchell, expressing its concern over the lack of Regents scholarship support generated from the annual Medal Dinner in Fall of 2008. Initially, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships was concerned that only \$100,000.00 from Medal proceeds would be applied to Financial Aid for Academic Year 2008-09, which would represent another decline in funding over previous years. Financial Aid was greatly disappointed to find out that, in fact, not just less funding but no funds would be available for AY08-09. In the memo to Thomas Mitchell, BUSHFA requests that Advancement work closely with Financial Aid in marketing and highlighting the Regents Scholarship Program as an option for high level donors to designate funds at the annual Medal Dinner. As of August, 2009 BUSHFA had not received a response from Vice Chancellor Mitchell.

IV. FUTURE DIRECTIONS

1. Follow up on how Medal funds are appropriated to Financial Aid
2. Approve final Latin Honors cutoffs (BUSHFA reviewed the preliminary Latin Honors cutoffs)
3. Final Regents numbers for AY08-09

V. Members

George Tita, Chair, Social Ecology
 Mary Corey, Arts
 Karina Cramer, Biological Sciences
 Kwei-Jay Lin, Engineering
 Jean-Daniel Saphores, Engineering
 Alejandro Morales, Humanities
 Laura O'Connor, Humanities
 Patrick Smith, Information & Computer Science
 Zachary Fisk, Physical Sciences/Biological Sciences
 Katherine Faust, Social Sciences
 Julia Elyachar, Social Sciences
 Zhihong Lin, Physical Sciences

Ex Officio

Sharon Salinger, Dean of Undergraduate Education
 Rudi Berkelhamer, Associate Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education
 Chris Schultz, Acting Director, Financial Aid

Consultants

Lisa Roetzel, Associate Director, Campuswide Honors Program
 Kimberly Johnson, Scholarship Coordinator, Financial Aid and Scholarships
 David Naimie, Admissions & Relations with Schools
 Chau Luu, Assistant Director, Scholarship Opportunities Program

Representatives

Judy Bube, Librarians' Association University of California, Irvine
 Chris Blaylock, Associated Students University of California, Irvine

Analyst

Michelle AuCoin

