

**Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools
Annual Report
2010-2011**

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:

The Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) submits its report of activities for the academic year 2010-11.

I. Council Operations

Rahul Warrior (Biological Sciences) served as CUARS chair for AY2010-2011. The Council met eight times during the year. The meetings were attended by nine elected members, the Acting Director and Associate Director (ex officio) of the Office of Admissions & Relations with Schools (OARS), the Board of Admissions & Relations with Schools (BOARS) Representative, the Librarians' Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, and the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI and AGS) representatives. Acting Director of Admissions & Relations with Schools, Brent Yunek, kept CUARS informed of the activities of the Admissions Office at UCI and solicited feedback on all policy modifications. Rahul Warrior, Chair, served as representatives to the Enrollment Council during their quarter long terms.

II. University wide Issues/Policies

A. CUARS' critique of UC Online Education (UCOE)

The Office of the President established the UCOE in an effort to centralize online education for UC students, prepare other students for a UC education, and increase revenue in the long term for UC campuses.

Points raised with regards to issues directly under CUARS purview:-

- UCOE should ensure that online courses broaden California resident access to UC courses by considering a financial aid component (perhaps similar to the 1/3 return of fees structure currently in place for onland fee).
- In addition to gateway classes, emphasis should be placed on courses that help satisfy the A-G requirements for UC admissions. This would help broaden the UC eligible applicant pool for conventional admission and may be especially helpful for non-resident/international applicants studying at institutions where courses that satisfy these UC requirements are not normally offered, making their admission difficult.
- Online courses may be especially useful for transfer students seeking admission to majors (such as engineering) where specific pre-requisite courses are not widely offered at community colleges.

More general concerns expressed by CUARS:

- Teaching online courses that are equivalent in quality to UC classes likely will demand equivalent faculty and TA time. Therefore use of line faculty may not yield significant savings. The primary benefit would be in improved accessibility and lower demand for physical resources.
- Class size and student/teacher ratios need to be limited to ensure that teaching quality is not compromised and that learning outcomes are optimized. Greater consideration should be given to estimating realistic enrollment targets for UCOE given current and anticipated faculty/graduate student numbers.

- How will online instruction impact departmental teaching loads and faculty and TA course assignments?
- It is critical that the UCOE program be of the highest quality. The failure to achieve quality risks diluting UC's reputation and a comparison with clearly inferior for-profit on-line education schools and programs.
- Learning outcomes and cost effectiveness of on-line programs offered at other universities should be closely examined to take advantage of the benefits and avoid the pitfalls other on-line programs have faced.

B. Commission on the Future: Comment on UCLA and Academic Council statements regarding near term solutions for the UC.

CUARS had two main comments on the recommendations to the Commission on the Future by UCLA and the Academic Senate:

First, the UC should focus on maintaining the faculty while also contemplating how to best shrink the faculty and staff in difficult economic times.

Second, It is not clear that a moratorium on building and on new programs helps to achieve the goals (2 c. and d). Requiring a statement of revenues for operations of a building or of a funding stream for new programs is reasonable, but instead the document asks for a moratorium on building and essentially on new programs. This doesn't help with the goal of retaining faculty, as adequate facilities are an important part of retention. It doesn't help with serving the students, as some programs will not have the facilities to serve their students. Further, a restriction of programs without an eye on how to innovate and develop new programs keeps the UC in retraction mode rather than innovation mode. If new programs will not be considered if they may impact existing programs then UC will be in a situation where no new ideas are contemplated. This is a serious mistake. If UC only thinks of retraction, and not about strategic expansion, UC is not leaving itself any degrees of freedom for thinking about how to do things differently or better from a system-wide or even a campus-wide perspective.

III. UCI: Issues/Policies

A. Single Score Review for UCI Undergraduate Applicants

CUARS) voted unanimously to adopt a single score review process for freshman and transfer applications to UC, Irvine to be implemented in Fall, 2010. Two months later at the October, 12, 2010 CUARS meeting, CUARS members voted in favor of adopting principles to guide the selection of undergraduates to the UCI campus using this single score (or "holistic") review process. These principles seek to ensure that all undergraduate files are evaluated comprehensively and that each review of the file recognizes not just the individual's past academic achievement, but also the applicant's unique personal challenges and qualities, demonstrated leadership and likely contribution to the intellectual and cultural vitality of the campus.

B. Determining Enrollment Targets for Schools

Undergraduate enrollment targets at UCI are currently established in a manner that does not systematically incorporate direct input from Schools. While the Council on

Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools (CUARS) does **not** set the enrollment targets for the number of new entering first year and transfer students, it **is** charged with setting policies regarding admission decisions. CUARS is aware that these policies can have a direct effect on the number of new entering first year and transfer students who are admitted.

CUARS is sensitive to the fact that large (especially unanticipated) variation in new enrollments in schools can have a negative effect on the educational quality of our programs. CUARS would therefore like to explore mechanisms to optimize new student and transfer enrollment management. To help us in that discussion, we ask that you each provide us with a target for the Fall 2011 enrollment of new Freshman and transfer students.

While CUARS appreciates the UC system-wide and UCI campus principles and complexities which must be considered when setting enrollment goals, members believe that more input from the Schools themselves would improve the matching of resources and enrollment in Schools. Schools would be better able to allocate resources, offer courses, and optimize instructor/student ratios.

- C. Representation of Associate Deans and Student Affairs to CUARS meetings**
CUARS members requested that an ex officio Associate Dean, selected by all of the Associate Deans, represent the interests of Associate Deans at CUARS meetings. The same request was made for Student Affairs representatives. Cabinet, however, decided it was best to have Associate Deans and Student Affairs reps invited to CUARS meetings on an issue by issue basis.

IV. Continuing Issues

- A. CUARS may continue to discuss raising the GPA requirements for transfers. This issue would be initiated by the Department of Admissions.**
- B. CUARS members were in favor of adopting a holistic review model for transfer applications similar to that of UC Berkeley and UCLA. The details of this will be discussed in AY11-12.**
- C. CUARS will continue the discussion of establishing a tie in with Beijing Normal University.**

Members

Rahul Warrior, Chair, Social Sciences
Christine Beckman, Business
John LaRue, Engineering
Rainer Reinscheid, Health Sciences
Richard Pattis, ICS
Gregory Weiss, Physical Sciences
John Whiteley, Social Ecology
Jeff Russell, Arts
Belinda Campos, Social Sciences
Susan Charles, Social Ecology
Yaming Yu, ICS

Cynthia Claxton, Humanities

Ex Officio:

Brent Yunek, Acting Director, OARS

Deborah Decker, Associate Director, Admissions

Representatives

Jeffra Bussman, Librarians' Association University of California, Irvine

Analyst: Michelle AuCoin