

## **Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools 2008-2009 Annual Report**

### **To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:**

The Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) submits its report of activities for the academic year 2008-09.

### **I. Council Operations**

John LaRue, George Lueker, and Bruce Berg served as CUARS chairs for Fall, Winter and Spring quarters. The Council met ten 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. All three Chairs, Bruce Berg, George Lueker, and John LaRue served as representatives to the Enrollment Council during their quarter long terms. Michael Clark, the Vice Provost for Academic Planning, kept CUARS informed about enrollment activities.

### **II. Divisional Issues/Policies**

#### **A. Senate Review of Furlough Standing Orders of the Regents Amendment and Guidelines (May, 2009)**

CUARS was asked to review a proposal of a Standing Order which would allow for the UC President to impose employee furloughs or salary cuts in the case of fiscal emergency or natural disaster. CUARS unanimously disagreed with the proposed measures because the Standing Order does not preclude any potential disaster which means the president would be given too much authority and could mandate emergency salary cuts under any condition so long as it is deemed "emergency." Further, mandates could be implemented inconsistently and unfairly by affecting selected campuses and units.

#### **B. Non Resident Enrollment at UC (May, 2009)**

The Council reviewed and commented on a UC policy to encourage non resident enrollment. Mostly, CUARS members took issue with encouraging the enrollment of this group at UCI because non residents, both international and out of state, are "net payers" who are upper-middle income students who do not potentially contribute to the diversity of traditionally underrepresented minorities in the university. CUARS members were, however, positive about the financial benefits as well as cultural and linguistic diversity non residents would bring to the university. The Council also agrees that all non-resident admissions meet the current academic standards for resident students.

#### **C. Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation governing Undergraduate Admissions (May, 2009)**

CUARS was asked to review mandatory revisions to regulations of the systemwide policy for admissions to be implemented in 2012. CUARS members believe the revisions accurately reflect the new admission's policy adopted by the

Regents but found a few points where wording should be changed, for list see CUARS meeting minutes, May, 2009.

- D. CUARS' comments on increasing the number of transfer students at UCI:** CUARS submitted the following comments to the UCI Senate Chair in light of discussions the council had on putting caps on freshmen enrollment targets:

CUARS members are concerned with the systemwide admissions policy of capping the admission of first-year students without a comparable cap on transfer admissions. CUARS believes that increasing the ratio of transfer students relative to first year students will alter the quality of the student body. Moreover, a relative increase in the number of transfer students may change the composition of classes and alter the structure of departmental curricula (e.g. number of lower division courses relative to the number of upper division courses.) Additionally, transfer students experience a different college life than 4-year students, which could adversely impact loyalty and alumni donations in the future. In comparison to the 2008-2009 academic year, the number of projected freshman admissions for the Fall of 2009 of freshman dropped by about 700 students and the projected number of transfers increased by about 450. CUARS feels that this trend should not continue and that admission caps be applied equitably to both freshman and transfer students.

### **III. System-wide Issues/Policies**

- A. Report on UC Accountability Standards (November, 2008)**  
CUARS was asked by the Office of the President to review accountability standards related to Admissions at UC. CUARS had comments on the standards as they relate to the sample size and statistical significance of the data sets analyzed. CUARS members were also concerned that demographic criteria of student population characteristics (GPA, SAT, geographic origin of student, first generation, high school API score, ethnicity, gender, income) be assessed based on School, department or major. CUARS members also noted that UC's most important product is the students. Thus, in order for an accountability report to be complete, that report should include some measures of post-graduate outcomes according to all of the variables used in the other student indicator comparisons.
- B. Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan (January, 2009)**  
CUARS was asked to review the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan proposed by UC President, Mark Yudof. The plan states that all students whose family incomes are under \$60,000.00 would be eligible for tuition and fee reimbursement. CUARS members agreed that the goal of sending a simple message to California families would be helpful for students and their parents to make decisions about the affordability of UC. CUARS members did have a few reservations about the proposal, mainly that the distribution of financial aid money may be less fair than under the current model. The council was also

concerned that fairness of financial aid distribution was being sacrificed to promote a simple message.

- C. BOARS issues ((systemwide) Board on Admissions and Relations with Schools) Entitled To Review (ETR):** The Regents voted in favor of the ETR proposal (on freshman eligibility and guarantee to UC) in February, 2009. The regulation allows for a broader range of applicants to be eligible for review. The regulation will be implemented in 2012.

**SHARED REVIEW:** UC is working on a program that would allow shared review of applications to all UC schools. One of the scores on each application will be a numerical, machine-read score. The starting place for the machine based score will be the UCLA Read Sheet, which provides a great deal of contextual information about students: how they rank on GPA and test scores among applicants to UC and UCLA and with respect to other students from the same school. Also, information on the high school from which the applicant is applying will be considered as part of the overall context of a student's performance. BOARS voted to ask UCOP to provide the relevant data for this analysis and to create a template into which the data could be downloaded and distributed to campuses.

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND EARTH SYSTEMS SCIENCE.** The proposal to include Environmental and Earth System Sciences under the "D" category of required courses for freshman applicants will be sent out, against BOARS' recommendation, for systemwide review. Once again, BOARS had another lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of the proposal. Some thought that adding EESS courses to the "D" requirement would lead to improvement of high school courses in this area. Others felt that using the a-g requirements for "social engineering" was inappropriate. It might also be something of a "slippery slope" which would prompt all kinds of pressure groups to lobby for including their courses in the a-g requirements. The new director of the Articulation Office observed that he would need more staff to handle course approvals if EESS courses are included under the "D" requirements. BOARS will produce a pro/con document to be provided to units reviewing the proposal.

#### **IV. Local Issues**

- A. UCI Admissions: Importance of Achieving Enrollment Targets for AY08-09**  
The Office of the President did not fund overenrollment of UCI freshman for AY08-09 as UCI had anticipated. Normally because UCI is a growth campus, it receives extra money from the Office of the President (OP) to fund overenrollment, but budget reductions systemwide meant that UCI would have to come up with the funds on its own this year. As a result of this unexpected cost and knowing that future overenrollment would not be financed by OP, it was especially important that UCI meet enrollment targets with the utmost precision for AY09-10. As of June, 2009, the Office of Admissions reported that enrollment targets would in fact be met nearly to the exact number assuming a degree of melt (students who SIR but decide not to come to UCI) would occur over the summer. The enrollment target for Freshman for AY09-10 was cut by 550, for transfers, the enrollment target was up 50.

**B. Admissions Models used to capture most diverse and academically prepared students while maintaining enrollment targets in Schools.**

A number of Admissions models were presented to CUARS. Finely tuning models should select for students with the highest academic profiles while also optimizing diversity outcomes. This year the admissions differed from the previous years because (about) 550 fewer freshmen were selected as a result of lower enrollment targets. Admissions Model, Option 8, was selected. No model guarantees outcomes as it is difficult to guess which students will actually enroll once accepted; furthermore, it is difficult for any model to select for the precise number of students based on School. For example, although Option 8 was clearly the superior model, it selected for larger numbers of Bio Students and fewer ICS and Social Ecology students. In the end, it appears that Option 8 worked out well but that fewer ICS students SIREd compared to previous years and too many Business students had enrolled (as of June, 2008).

**C. Shared Review with UCLA**

Because UCI and UCLA admit about 97% of the same students, and the overwhelming majority of these students come from cohorts A (academically superior cohort of applicants), and H (mostly unqualified cohort of applicants). UCI thought the review process for freshman applications might be handled more efficiently if UCI used UCLA's review scores for some cohorts. CUARS members voted in favor of using UCLA's review score of applications from Cohorts, A, B, and H with the provision that UCI reread applications that were rejected by UCLA in the A and B cohorts. Sharing review with UCLA saves UCI significant labor costs that are equivalent to the expense to employ reviewers (internal or external) to read approximately 10,000 extra applications. An additional advantage to using UCLA to help review applications is that UCI is receiving more and more applications each year while at the same time less money to employ staff and external readers to review the increasing number of applications.

**D. Enrollment Outcomes for AY2009-10**

4119 freshman have SIREd for AY09-10 compared to 4818 last year. The Office of Admissions met enrollment targets this year by carefully managing admissions using yield data from previous years and by tweaking this formula with expectations that more students would yield this year due to the economic recession. Admissions also used appeals to admit interested students and waitlisted 330 students, who were eventually admitted. Some points of interest:

- Freshman Statement of Intent (SIR) data shows that Freshman SIRs for ICS have decreased dramatically this year perhaps due to slightly fewer applicants but this cannot fully explain such a drastic drop.
- The School of Business is overenrolled for the upcoming year. SIRs—94 SIREd last year compared to 266 this year. Some of this is due to higher enrollment targets; some of it is unexpected increase in Business SIRs.
- There was no identified target for non residents this year. 92 non resident freshmen have SIREd this year compared to 110 last year.
- 86 African Americans have SIREd this year compared to 96 last year and though the number/percentage difference (2.0% last year vs. 2.1% this year) is almost imperceptible, the Office of Admissions had hoped to significantly increase the admittance rate for this group compared to last

year. African Americans SIREd at a higher rate than other groups but their admittance levels were down due to GPAs and SAT scores.

- Chinese/Chinese American and East Indian/Pakistani SIR rates were up, from 18.1% to 19.2% for Chinese/Chinese American and from 3.8% to 6.1% for East Indian Pakistani. Caucasian rates of SIR are down from 21.7% to 19.9%. Latino, Chicano, and Native American rates of SIR are about the same compared to last year, 3.9%, 11.5%, and .4% respectively.
- The average GPA for incoming freshman is 4.0 (weighted). This is the highest GPA UCI has seen for incoming freshmen.

**E. Summer Session Enrollment**

There was discussion about whether Summer Session should continue to have a fee cap whereby students can take an unlimited number of credits but only have to pay for eight. One benefit to raising the capacity to ten units is financial. Students receiving financial aid, however, can take up to 12 units so they will not be negatively impacted by the cap. In the end, the enrollment council decided to eliminate the fee cap and students were required to pay per unit without discounts for those registering for more than eight units. As of June, 2009 enrollment for summer was down by 15% (likely as a result of the discontinuation of the cap) and some students expressed concern about the rising cost of summer session. Students were told that more financial aid was also available to complement summer fee increases.

**F. Office of Admissions Used External Readers**

For AY08-09, to save money and to expedite the review process, OARS employed/trained 150 external readers of applications.

**V. Continuing Issues**

**A. Review of the impact on UCI regulations in light of the UC Freshman Eligibility policy change.**

CUARS members must ensure that Admissions regulations are in compliance with systemwide regulations that have been modified to correspond to the UC Freshman Eligibility policy change to take place in 2012.

**B. Shared Review**

CUARS will continue with Shared Review with UCLA while assessing its outcome.

**C. Enrollment Issues**

CUARS will continue to review and assess enrollment projects in light of the current budget situation. UCI has been ordered by the UC Office of the President not to increase freshman/transfer enrollment for AY2010-2011.

**D. Use of Subject SAT in Admissions into some Schools/Departments.**

The Director of Admissions, Sue Wilbur, is concerned that because the SAT subject test will no longer be required as of 2012, some departments or Schools may still wish to continue using subject SAT scores to select students. Wilbur wants to make sure that students are not penalized by departments or Schools for not taking the subject SAT. Wilbur asked that UC admission councils provide feedback on this issue.

**VI. Guests**

- Michael Clark, Vice Provost for Academic Planning
- Gary Matkin, Dean, Continuing Education
- UCLA Admissions Director, Vu Tran
- UCLA Associate Director of Admissions, Kathleen O'Kane

**Members**

Stephen Tucker, Arts  
Margerethe Wiersema, Business  
Rahul Warrior, Biological Sciences  
John LaRue, Fall Chair, Engineering  
George Lueker, Winter Chair, ICS  
Andromache Karanika, Humanities  
Gregory Weiss, Physical Sciences  
Susan Charles, Social Ecology  
Bruce Berg, Spring Chair, Social Sciences

**Ex Officio:**

Brent Yunek, Acting Director, OARS  
James Given, BOARS Representative

**Consultants:**

Joe Maestas, Director of Student Academic Advancement Services, DUE

**Representatives**

Cynthia Johnson, Librarians' Association University of California, Irvine  
Andrea Johnson, Associated Students University of California, Irvine  
Eric Ruzek, Associated Graduated Students

**Analyst:** Michelle AuCoin