**Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools**

**2014-2015 Annual Report**

**To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:**

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2014-15.

**I. Council Operations**

Gilbert Gonzalez, Professor Emeritus of Chicano/ Latino Studies, chaired the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) for the 2014-15 academic year. The Committee met nine times during the year.

The meetings were attended by twelve elected members, the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Services, the Director of the Office of Admissions & Relations with Schools (OARS), a representative from the Librarians Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I), and a representative from the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI).

The CUARS Chair acted upon as *ex officio* member of the Enrollment Council, who contributed to Council meetings as appropriate. Throughout the year, the Assistant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Services and the Director of the Office of Admissions & Relations with Schools kept CUARS well-informed of the activities of admissions, as well as provided comments and advice to the council when requested.

**II. Divisional Issues/Policies**

1. **Undergraduate Admissions Pilot Program**

The Council discussed BOARS’s review of the three UCI major admissions pilot programs and the conclusion that the Biological Sciences undergraduate major admissions pilot programs violate the spirit of its comprehensive review policy on admissions. Recommendations were considered and endorsed by the Senate Cabinet Chair Bill Molzon.

1. **Comprehensive Review Reader**

The Office of Admissions and Relations with Schools invited the council to participate in one vital portion of the admission’s process. Comprehensive Review Reader opportunity was made available to any members interested in participating. Interested members were to email Director Morales for additional information.

1. **International Undergraduate Preparation Program (IUPP)**

Guest speakers from Engineering- Major Specific Departments presented on the details behind this year’s policy implementation and early analysis of the results from their specified major-based enrollment pilots. The council engaged in discussion and in evaluating UCI’s experiences with the Holistic Approach and the results from the changes implemented. Discussion was focused on measures of success, outcomes and consequences, and how effective were the pilot programs with URMs and international students. Data analysis varied across the major- specific departments. Chair Bardwell and Luisa Crespo instructed guest speaker to send a more detailed and conclusive report, in order to present to the Senate Cabinet.

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

1. **Proposal for Adjusting the Eligibility Construct**

BOARS recommends a new eligibility construct and has requested a systemwide review of its proposal to adjust the “9-by-9”eligibility construct to “7-by-7.” The proposal is motivated by the need for UC to accommodate all students eligible for a guarantee of referral admission. It also addresses a miscalculation made in the 2009 eligibility reform policy by more accurately bringing the total number of guaranteed students to the policy target of 10% of public high school graduates. The Academic Council has asked BOARS to clarify aspects of the proposal before sending it for systemwide review. BOARS review the details of the proposal and considers Council’s request.

Chair Gonzalez invited Patty Morales and Brent Yunek to speak more on how adjusting the eligibility construct can determine for future applicants. Admissions shared models that have been considered for the freshman admits this year. The council had concerns about increasing quality of admitted students placing emphasis on the holistic scoring and the influx of students in the referral pool. The members were also concerned about increasing diversity in ethnicity, first to attend college, and low income areas. The council recommended that there be a rigorous evaluation of the policy after a full-year cycle implementation. Council members also suggested that a conversation between the Regents, California legislature, and executives may be helpful to consider, within the near future, in order to device a proper funding plan that will fulfill the UC’s long-term objectives. Chair Gonzalez forwarded the council’s comment to BOARS. The Board decided to continue with the current referral policy with no modifications.

1. **Compares Favorably**

Systemwide BOARS Chair, Ralph Aldredge, requested that the Admissions Councils from each school work with their local admissions office to provide an “assessment of the extent to which the compare favorably rule is being met.” As noted in the Academic Council resolution of 2012, this assessment included the descriptions of campus evaluations and selection criteria, measures, and supporting data. Director Morales provided the council with brief information on the overview of freshman admissions across all UC Campuses. Morales, along with AVC Yunek, w monitored the numbers and data that would complete the report on behalf of Irvine.

1. **Annual Report on Undergraduate Admissions Requirements & Comprehensive Review**

BOARS Chair, Ralph Aldredge, asked the chairs of each division to review a draft of its “Annual Report on Undergraduate Admissions Requirements and Comprehensive Review. This report conglomerated the components of BOARS’ shared reports on Comprehensive Review (Sept. 2012) and on the Impact of the New Freshman Eligibility Policy (Nov. 2013). Chair Aldredge asked the chairs to provide an extensive recommendations and feedback as soon as possible. With the culmination of this report, there will be a continuous review, every 5 years. The UCI report was submitted on January 31, 2015.

1. **Streamlining Transfer Admission**

Chair Gonzalez highlighted the UCOP initiative in which President Napolitano wants to do more to improve the transfer path to all UCs. Prospective California City College (CCC) transfers are now applying to more UC campuses on average, and those who wish to prepare for multiple campuses in the same major are finding it difficult to navigate the different pre-major preparation requirements across the system. As a result, some students take more units than they need, and some fail to transfer. UC is a public institution and has an obligation to make transfer easier for CCC students. BOARS members expressed general support for the plan to convene the curricular groups, noting that streamlining transfer is an opportunity to help students and also attract and enroll better prepared students. Many faculty would welcome the opportunity to share views about course requirements and alignment, and easing the transfer path could also help boost enrollment in shrinking fields. It was noted that some majors, like chemistry for example, have sub-disciplines with substantively different transfer prerequisites, and admissions offices may not always make decisions based strictly on their stated requirements.

1. **Transfer Action Pathways Project**

Chair Gonzalez invited Interim Dean for the Division of Undergraduate Education Michael Dennin, who was tasked with identifying faculty representation from UCI, to provide an update on the UC Transfer Admission Pathways Project (TAPP). The project seeks to provide better information to community college transfers who want to prepare for multiple UC campuses in the same major; it is not intended to change campus admissions requirements. Meetings focused on three levels of agreement and guidance for students: a set of minimum pre-major courses required for transfer admission; a set of recommended courses that will help increase an applicant’s competitiveness for admission; and any additional preparation that will ensure a transfer is prepared to graduate in two years. LAUC-I representative Annette Buckley suggested that she could assist in providing transfer students with accessing library resources. Director Morales noted that UCI continues to be highly competitive at the transfer level, and that more resources are in preparation. Chair Gonzalez advised that the goal of the pathways is to provide better information to community college transfers who want to prepare simultaneously for multiple UC campuses in the same major, and to help ensure that transfers arrive at UC better prepared to do UC-level work.

1. **TOEFL Score**

Chair Gonzalez communicated that the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) have discussed how campuses are using scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) to assess the English proficiency of non-native English-speaking applicants. An analysis of the relationships between TOEFL scores and academic success at UC for cohorts of international students, who submitted different ranges of scores and entered UC between 2010 and 2013, was also part of the review process.

1. **Revision of BOARS' response to ICAS Statement**

Chair Gonzalez communicated that the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS), which is comprised of representatives from the community colleges, states colleges, and the UC system, has asked faculty from higher education segments to review the draft “Statement of Competencies in the Natural Sciences Expected of Entering Freshmen.” Chair Gonzalez noted that Academic Senate Chair Mary Gilly has tasked BOARS with reviewing the statement on behalf of the UC Senate. The document updates a 1988 ICAS statement to the State’s adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Chair Gonzalez noted that one of the goals for the NGSS and ICAS is to move area “d” forward to reflect the four core NGSS categories—Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences, and Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science to broaden the distinction between “field sciences” and “laboratory sciences.” Chair Gonzalez concluded that BOARS would continue to discuss potential changes to area “d” and study the impact of any changes that may affect less-resourced schools.

1. **AP Capstone**

Chair Gonzalez advised the Council of the new AP Capstone required courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. The curriculum exposes students to general research tools and principles, as well as culminates in an academic research paper and oral presentation. Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in both AP Seminar and AP Research and on four additional AP Exams of their choosing will receive the AP Capstone “Diploma.” It was noted that UC should encourage interest in research and the development of research skills in K-14, but it is also important to ensure the quality and integrity of the assessment structure. Council members raised concerns about the transferring of credits and how it helped students achieve any UC credit. Director Morales noted that departments have the capacity to accept AP credits or not. Chair Gonzalez communicated that BOARS will further review the AP Capstone materials to decide whether UC should award elective credit for AP Seminar and AP Research, and the appropriate exam or assessment score required to receive elective credit. The Council voted to support that the UC recognize AP credits. BOARS will wait to make a decision until after AP Research is implemented.

**IV. Guests**

Jeff Davis, Associate Director of University Programs at University Extension

Cindy Ting Lin, Manager of University Programs at university Extension

Michael Dennin, Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education

Natalie Schonfeld, Executive Director of the Academic Senate

Don Williams, Director of Student Affairs

**V. Council Membership**

Gilbert Gonzalez, Chicano/ Latino Studies (Chair)

Drew Bailey, Education

Bridget Cooks, Humanities

Chad Hall, Arts

Mireille Jacobson, Business

Andromache Karanika, Humanities

Zhiqin Lu, Physical Sciences

Andrej Luptak, Health Sciences

Aditi Majumder, Information & Computer Science

Athanasios Sideris, Engineering

Joanne Zinger, Social Ecology

**Ex Officio:**

Patricia Morales, Director of Admissions & Relations with Schools

**Consultants:**

Brent Yunek, Assistant VC, Enrollment Services - OARS

**Representatives**

Annette Buckley, LAUC-I

Jennifer Ledesma, ASUCI

**Analyst**

Wendy Chamorro