

Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools 2016-2017 Annual Report

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:

The Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) respectfully submits its report of activities for the 2016-17 academic year.

I. Council Operations

Ann Sakai, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, chaired the Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) in 2016-17. The Committee met seven times during the year. The meetings were attended by eleven appointed members, the Director (ex officio) of the Office of Admissions & Relations with Schools (OARS), the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services (consultant), the Librarians Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, the Associated Graduate Students (AGS) Representative, and the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI) Representative. The CUARS Chair served as the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) Representative, and as a member of the Council on Enrollment and Student Success (CESS), and contributed to Council meetings as appropriate. Throughout the year, the Director of the Office of Admissions & Relations with Schools and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services kept CUARS well-informed of the activities of OARS and the Committee provided comments and advice when requested.

II. Divisional Issues/Policies

A. Actionable Recommendations for the Implementation of the UCI Strategic Plan

CUARS was asked to provide recommendations about (1) modifications or enhancements to be made to student recruitment in order to become students' first choice and (2) which students the campus should more vigorously recruit. The Council forwarded the following recommendations:

- Every effort should be made to inform students of their financial aid package, including the types of financial aid available, as soon as possible after or concurrent with the offer of admission. Explanations should be as clear as possible, knowing that many students, particularly those from low income and/or first generation college households, may not want to assume loans and/or may have yet to acquire financial literacy.
- Given the need to admit a 2:1 freshman to transfer ratio, efforts to target or branch out to different community colleges as well as high schools each year should be continued.
- The relative utility and cost effectiveness of college fairs and other outreach activities should be assessed by various means, e.g., surveys of students about their experience with UCI at college fairs or other admissions outreach activities. Surveys should include, if possible, different groups (enrolled/ non-enrolled, freshman/transfer students, students from diverse backgrounds).
- Continue to improve the OARS website by making it more navigable and easy for students to contact the Office of Admissions. Develop and highlight a link on the

OARS website that give tips on how to apply for admissions to UCI (through an online class, YouTube video, etc.) to help prepare and encourage prospective UCI students to apply.

- Continue to emphasize (on the Admissions website and in admissions presentations) the strengths and programs that make UCI unique and different from the other UCs and Cal State universities. These programs and activities include but are not limited to field studies, distinct research programs, undergraduate interactions with high profile faculty, and undergraduate majors of special interest.
- Set up more formal ties between OARS and each UCI School and encourage each school to submit a brief statement or online video to highlight their particular programs, unique undergraduate research projects, etc. These videos could become the face of UCI, with all of its diversity in academic areas and diversity within the student body.
- Appoint a liaison from each School to OARS (e.g., CUARS members or others) to identify interesting programs/undergraduate research to highlight, with technical help from OARS. These liaisons could help OARS explain to students how majors are similar/different from other subjects/professions that the students may already be familiar with, and help students connect majors to particular professions. This partnership might also ensure that incoming (and current) students understand major requirements, and all the different career opportunities available to graduates with those majors.
- The students admitted should reflect the diversity of the state as a whole, while demonstrating the high academic potential expected of UC students. Continue to collect data on students who have taken the SAT or ACT to better understand the student pool and which communities and institutions might be best targeted by UCI.
- Continue to take into account geographical information about those students most likely to come. At the same time, work to increase name recognition of UCI in other geographical areas when trying to decide deployment of admissions field staff.

B. Admissions Reports

Director Morales provided the members with an admissions report at each meeting. She described the organization of OARS, including its recruitment and yield efforts, provided summaries of new freshman and transfer applicants for 2015 and 2016, explained the holistic review process at UCI and the ways in which it differs from holistic review at other campuses, informed the members about campus enrollment targets and OARS' strategies for meeting these, and discussed the compare favorably data for nonresident students.

The mandated growth in the undergraduate student population led to numerous conversations within CUARS about the impact of the growth on classroom and laboratory space, faculty and administrative workload, the growing imbalance between undergraduate and graduate student enrollments, student success, and strategies for increasing the recruitment and retention of URM students.

III. Systemwide Issues/Policies

A. Parental Alumni Status on the Application

In Fall 2016, UCOP proposed adding a place on the UC application for students to designate their parents' UC alumni status, reflecting President Napolitano's interest in strengthening relationships with parents and alumni. This raised concerns that asking for this information could create false perceptions or expectations that this information might impact admission decisions and could also discourage some students from applying to the UC. It was ultimately decided that the UC application include the new request for parents' names, email, and address but not the question about parents' college of graduation; this information, collected by UC, will not be released to the campuses until after admissions decisions have been made.

B. Compare Favorably Policy for Nonresident Admissions

CUARS members reviewed the "compare favorably" policy for nonresident admission and assessed its consistency with UC's freshman admission goals, comprehensive review policy, and holistic review processes. CUARS members opined that the UC should continue to consider SAT, high school GPA, and UC academic performance in the assessment. CUARS also expressed support for narrowing the focus of UC academic performance measures to first-year GPA and academic probation rates (GPA below 2.0), and for emphasizing the SAT as a global, standardized measure, over high school GPA, which carries vastly different meanings in different educational contexts.

C. Augmented Review and Letters of Recommendation

CUARS members expressed concern about augmented review and the use of letters of recommendations in the admissions process citing a general lack of support for augmented review and more specifically concerns about implicit bias associated with the ability to garner letters of recommendations.

D. Transfer Pathways Guide

UCOP released a course finder tool that allows prospective transfers to determine where specific pathway courses are available (either at their own CCC or other nearby CCC's) through a self-designated zip-code distance search. The tool also allows UC faculty to see if faculty at a sister UC campus have accepted a given CCC course for transfer.

E. Nonresident Enrollment Policy

The Regents approved a policy on nonresident enrollment limiting the proportion of out-of-state and international students at 18% at five campuses and, for four campuses- Berkeley, Irvine, Los Angeles, and San Diego-at the proportion each campus enrolls in the 2017-18 academic year.

IV. Guests

A. Ana Miriam Barragan, UCI Dreamers Coordinator

Ana Miriam Barragan was invited to the January 10 CUARS meeting to provide information about the undocumented student population at UCI, the impact of the presidential elections, and campus efforts to address student concerns and affirm the campus' support for undocumented students.

B. Ryan Cherland, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Institutional Research and Decision Support and Kelly Kadlec, Chief of Staff, Planning and Budget

Ryan Cherland and Kelly Kadlec were invited to the February 14 CUARS meeting to discuss the Framework for UC's Growth and Support, a systemwide initiative designed to develop a vision for UC regarding academic and enrollment growth and the associated resources needs to ensure that each campus continue to fulfill its mission of teaching, research, and public service. The Irvine campus' proposal is based on three principles, inclusive excellence, student success, and research excellence. The campus' plan for growth is based on a number of assumptions including the need for additional support services as the URM population continues to grow, our commitment to increasing retention and graduation rates as a means to grow our impact, the desire to provide housing for at least 50% of our student population (graduate and undergraduate), bringing the student faculty ratio in line with our AAU colleagues, growing the graduate student population to 12% of undergraduate enrollment, meeting the 2:1 freshman to transfer ratio, having nonresident students represent 20% of undergraduate enrollments, and continuing to evaluate instructional delivery.

C. Professor Xi (Education) and Associate Dean Leon (Biological Sciences)

Professor Xi and Associate Dean Leon were invited to the June 13 CUARS meeting to provide information about the School of Biological Sciences' EASE Initiative, designed to promote academic success for first year biological sciences students and to increase their graduation with a STEM degree. The Initiative's primary aim is to provide resources to support URM students academically, socially, and psychologically as they tackle the heavy biological sciences workload. Preliminary analyses with respect to student success in the second quarter of introductory biology were presented. Further analyses are planned.

V. Council Membership**Members**

Ann Sakai, Biological Sciences, Chair
Julie Ferguson, Physical Sciences, Vice Chair
Jeanett Castellanos, Social Sciences
Jade Jenkins, Education
Angela Lukowski, Social Ecology
Ian Munro, Arts
Laura O'Connor, Humanities
Morton Pincus, Business
Miryha Runnerstrom, Health Sciences (Public Health)
Athanasios Sideris, Engineering
Zhaoxia Yu, ICS

Ex Officio

Patricia Morales, Director, OARS

Consultants

Brent Yunek, Associate VC, Enrollment Services

Representatives

Pauline Manaka, Associated Librarians University of California, Irvine
Mohini Hasmukh Patel, Associated Students University of California, Irvine

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

ACADEMIC SENATE, IRVINE DIVISION
COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
& RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Stephen Earl Jazon Ramirez Mamiit, Associated Students University of California,
Irvine (ended 12/9/16)
Ken Hayama, Associated Graduate Students University of California, Irvine