

**COUNCIL ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS & RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2018-2019**

**To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:**

The Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) respectfully submits its report of activities for the 2018-19 academic year.

**I. Council Operations**

CUARS is charged with making recommendations regarding policies on admissions, enrollment, and outreach activities to the administration and to the Academic Senate, and providing faculty coordination for outreach activities. The Council monitors outreach programs directed toward academic enrichment of the campus through a diverse student body and advising the campus administration on the disbursement of any funds designated for such programs. The Council maintains liaison with the system wide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) in overseeing all matters relating to the admission of undergraduate students.

Julie Ferguson, Professor of Teaching in Earth System Science, chaired the Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) in 2018-19. CUARS member Laura O'Connor, served as the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) Representative. Chair Julie Ferguson served as a member of the Council on Enrollment and Student Success (CESS). Both provided leadership to the CUARS meetings as appropriate.

The Council met nine times during the year. The meetings were attended by eleven appointed members, the Interim Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions (Ex Officio), 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. Throughout the year, the Interim Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions kept CUARS well-informed of the activities and status of Admissions/Enrollment and provided comments and advice when requested.

**II. Divisional Issues/Policies**

**A. Admissions Reports**

Tony Hwang, Interim Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions provided regular admissions updates to the CUARS members. Reports included data on the 2018 and 2019 fall applicants and an overview of the changes to admissions that followed the implementation of a new holistic review process and the decision to end the redirection of students to the Undergraduate/Undeclared major if applicants do not explicitly list it as their second choice major.

Admissions modeling reported that they continued to employ McGuire Consulting for predictive admissions. The campus modelled for 90% for California residents and 85% for non-residents for Fall 2019 admission. Considerations for admission also included maintaining the campus's Hispanic-Serving institution (HSI) designation,

Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) designation, its support for social mobility, and high academic profile. They are also working with Financial Aid to reduce work-study loan amounts.

#### **B. Admissions Operations**

Tony Hwang provided an overview of Admissions operations. There was a review of the operations calendar, personnel, comprehensive review, augmented review, modeling and selection, recruitment/yield activities, appeals, post selection audit and awarding transferable course credit.

Members questioned what role the Office of Enrollment Management will make in decisions about targets for each school. Chair Ferguson noted that the coordination with units regarding enrollment management should be presented to CUARS.

#### **C. English Proficiency**

Graduate Division recommended revisions to English proficiency requirements for admissions and TAs. The Council agreed with the proposed revisions noting that it would make sense for grad rate admissions to be in line with undergraduate admissions where possible. The Council expressed concern regarding the use of a third-party list for English language standards and that UCI should develop and use its own list for greater reliability.

#### **D. Proposal to Establish an Online B.A. in Business Administration**

CUARS discussed that this program will likely have an overwhelming demand. The Council expressed several concerns regarding implications for enrollment management given that undergraduate population is no longer growing, logistics should students wish to change majors or double-major, ethics of an "online" degree, and ambiguity with regard to the target population. The Council suggested that the proposers consult with the Office of Admissions to determine the operational feasibility of their plans and provide additional background data for future consideration of the proposal.

#### **C. Review of UCI's Guidelines for the Development of New Self-Supporting and Senate Regulated Graduate Degree Proposals (UCI's SSGPDP) Policy**

CUARS expressed concern that given the financial incentive for schools to offer SSGPDPs, it is unclear how programs balance support for the growth of SSGPDPs with the growth of a diverse undergraduate student population.

#### **E. ESports**

CUARS noted the necessity of continued monitoring of eSports program recruitment practices and efforts to attract diverse students. The Council also noted that unlike traditional athletics programs where students have a strong indication that they will be part of the team if admitted, eSports players must go through the standard admissions process and then must compete for a place on the team. It was recommended that the eSports program continue to be very selective in the student applicants that it works with the Admissions Office to advise.

CUARS also noted that the misogynistic content pervasive throughout eSports may make recruitment of more diverse students challenging. CUARS suggested the program consider requesting more active involvement from UCI faculty that research issues of diversity in gaming and eSports.

**F. Change of Major & Undergraduate/Undeclared Data**

CUARS requested data on yield and pathways for U/U students, time-to-degree for students who change majors into capped majors, and trends in change of majors. The report showed comparisons between the students who were redirected to U/U versus the students that were admitted to their first choice major and an analysis of the capped majors. The Council determined that as there has been a change in the redirect policy, there potentially will be a change in the migration of students. This has implications for enrollment patterns across campus.

**G. International Undergraduate Preparation Program (IUPP) and Admissions**

CUARS was asked to review the IUPP admissions process. The Office of Undergraduate Admissions confirmed that official test scores are obtained from CollegeBoard or ACT where the veracity of scores is assumed. In terms of English language proficiency, the campus must rely on TOEFL scores for evaluation. The campus selects above the UC recommended minimum TOEFL score. In terms of the admissions process, the Office of Undergraduate Admissions confirmed that IUPP applicants are not given preferential treatment. Unless applicants explicitly mention IUPP participation in their essays, international application readers are unable and do not distinguish between IUPP applicants and other international student applicants and are not instructed to treat these students any differently, although the readers would be able to see UCI classes listed within the application materials. CUARS acknowledged that successful completion of US college classes would likely increase the probability of admission for these students. The Council noted that it is not clear how participation in the IUPP program would be any different from participation in one of the similar preparatory programs offered elsewhere. It is unclear whether CUARS' charge covers regulation of such programs. The Council requested additional information specifically on what the percentage of IUPP students that were admitted to UCI is, how DCE markets the program, and how program revenues are used.

**H. Holistic Read Scores**

Admissions and Enrollment Management presented a pre-proposal to update the comprehensive review process to include the applicant's intended major in context. For schools such as Engineering or Arts, application information does not adequately demonstrate that the student would be successful in those particular areas. There is concern that extraordinary students in these particular subjects may be overlooked by a more generic read. The proposal argues that major considerations would help meet school targets and increase transparency about how the campus admits students.

CUARS discussed what impact this proposed change may have on URMs or students of socially disadvantaged backgrounds. Considering earlier admissions pilots, piloted programs did not see an increase in URMs. However, given the increase in overall applications, they also did not see a decrease. The Council discussed the need for data to support the proposal.

The Council noted that there is enough interest from specific schools to warrant further discussion into what augmented review would look like. Future discussion should address how this would be carried out: separated by school, folded into the 1-2-3 comprehensive review, a separate subject-specific score, etc. The Council

recommended that the proposal include information from schools choosing to be a part of the augmented review, including, what types of information they would look for in an application. It was advised that participation in this centralized augmented review should be optional for the different schools based on their requirements.

The Council expressed that members would be better able to understand and comment on its charge if Admissions could present a sequence of events and more information about the selection criteria and process.

#### **I. Outcome of Comprehensive Review**

Tony Hwang presented information on the outcome of the new reader scoring method implemented in Fall 2019 into the selection & comprehensive review process. The Council discussed how the broader faculty fundamentally do not understand the Admissions process and this leads to some distrust. If faculty and Admissions can agree on the overall goals, such as socioeconomic mobility and ensuring that the campus admits a population that reflects the demographics of the state, and there is clarity on how that's approached, then perhaps this could bridge the gap.

CUARS expressed misgivings about the update, reiterating that the Senate was not appropriately consulted and did not endorse the change. The Council expressed that the nuance of the old reading criteria was lost with the update and that such a change is philosophical, not operational, and therefore would fall under the remit of CUARS. A comparison was made with UC Santa Cruz where the BOARS subcommittee regularly meets with Admissions. Predictive yields are discussed with the subcommittee throughout the admissions process as opposed to after the fact. There may be different perspectives on admissions priorities from the Admissions Office vs faculty, such as increasing yield vs other factors that would be helpful to discuss in future years through greater collaboration between Admissions and CUARS.

### **III. Systemwide Issues/Policies**

#### **A. Proposed Presidential Policy BFB-RMP-7 Protection of Administrative Records Containing Personally Identifiable Information**

CUARS identified several concerns including ambiguity in definitions, who would be permitted to access the information, and for what purposes.

#### **B. Systemwide Senate Review of UC Transfer Guarantee Proposal**

CUARS expressed concerns that the 21 Transfer Pathway majors indicated are amongst the campus's most impacted majors that have the least capacity to accommodate an influx of students. The Council suggested that there be continued efforts to advertise and attract qualified applicants to other majors with the capacity to grow. The Council advised further considerations into what would happen should campuses or majors have to stop participating in TAG. There were also recommendations for additional resources, training, and support to effectively communicate the change to students and academic counsellors at community colleges, that the name of this new program be changed to make it easier to distinguish between the two "guarantee" programs, and that future resources and efforts be directed towards developing existing infrastructure to ensure that community college students are appropriately informed about how to prepare and apply for admission.

**IV. Guests - NONE**

**V. Council Membership**

**Members**

Julie Ferguson, Physical Sciences, Chair  
Susana Cohen-Cory, Biological Sciences  
Jeanett Castellanos, Social Sciences  
Brandy Gatlin, Education  
Candice Odgers, Social Ecology  
S. Ama Wray, Arts  
Laura O'Connor, Humanities  
Kevin Bradford, Business  
Ahmed Eltawil, Engineering  
Zhaoxia Yu, ICS  
David Kirkby, Physical Sciences  
Robert Spitale, Health Sciences

**Ex Officio**

Tony Hwang, Interim Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Executive Director of Enrollment Management

Dale Leaman, Interim Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions

**Consultants**

Patricia Morales, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management

**Representatives**

Krystal Tribbett, Librarians Association of the University of California, Irvine  
Sungmin Park, Associated Students University of California, Irvine  
Zayn Suhale, Associated Students University of California, Irvine  
Emily Sloneker, Associated Graduate Students University of California, Irvine