

**BOARD ON UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND FINANCIAL AID
ANNUAL REPORT
2020-21**

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:

The Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2020-21.

I. Council Operations

David Timberlake, Assistant Professor of Public Health, School of Public Health, chaired the Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) in 2020-21. The Council met three times during the year by videoconference. The meetings were attended by twelve elected members, a representative from the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs (ex officio), a representative from the Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching, and Learning/Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education (ex officio), the Assistant Director of Scholarships, the Librarians' Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI) Representative, the Director of the Campuswide Honors Collegium, the Director of Admissions & Relations with Schools, the Director of Financial Aid, and the Director of the Scholarship Opportunities Program. BUSHFA reports to the Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience (CTLSE) and the BUSHFA Chair is an ex-officio member of CTLSE.

II. Divisional Issues

A. Review of 2019-20 Latin Honors

(Meeting dates: 10/21/2020, 1/27/2021, 4/21/2021; Memo: 2/24/2021)

The Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors, and Financial Aid (BUSHFA) reviews the Latin Honors awarded to UC Irvine graduating seniors each academic year to ensure the percentage limit for awarding Latin Honors is not exceeded. According to Regulation 415 of the Manual of the Irvine Division of the Academic Senate, each School or program (or equivalent) may award Latin Honors to no more than 16% of its graduating seniors who have completed at least 72 units in the University of California: approximately 2% summa cum laude, 4% magna cum laude, and 10% cum laude. Each school currently chooses its own process for determining Latin honors while adhering to the overall 16% limit. Most, but not all, schools determine Latin honors solely based on students' GPAs. Among the schools that rely solely on students' GPAs, the standards and processes vary.

In April 2020, Executive Director Cartagena presented two proposals to the Board to standardize the process for determining Latin honors. These proposals were motivated both by the desire to provide more clarity to students and to reduce the administrative burden on schools. BUSHFA invited schools to comment on the options presented.

BUSHFA and CTLSE are in favor of maintaining the current 16% of students graduating with Latin Honors in each school while standardizing the process via the Office of the Registrar. Our understanding is that the Office of the Registrar will provide GPA cutoffs for each school before the beginning of the academic year and publish these cutoffs online by September. These cutoffs will be

determined based on GPA data from the previous three years. The Registrar will apply Latin honors quarterly to eligible students' transcripts upon graduation. While 16% will remain the goal each year, a minor year-to-year deviation is expected and permitted since the GPA cutoffs will be determined in advance.

The Academic Senate will permit schools flexibility to determine whether certain categories of courses (e.g. independent study courses) should be included in GPA calculations for the purpose of determining Latin honors. Importantly, schools must post this information online so that students understand the criteria for earning Latin honors in their respective majors.

The Board will continue its annual review of Latin honors to address issues as they arise.

B. University Advancement

(Meeting date: 10/21/2020)

BUSHFA invited Kara Correa from University Advancement to update the Board on campus scholarship fundraising efforts and the Brilliant Future Campaign. The fundraising campaign includes a matching opportunity program for new donors to have their funds matched by the university, which has resulted in the creation of about 120 new scholarships, fellowships, and awards. Members asked if any of the new scholarships would be focused on underrepresented students. As a note, the UC Regents support overturning Proposition 209, which restricts scholarships that are specific to race, ethnicity, and gender.

The Board appreciated the update from the University Advancement and feels it would be beneficial to receive yearly updates in fall or winter quarter.

Advancement thanked the Board for its contributions to awarding scholarships.

C. Online Restricted Scholarships 2020-21

(Meeting dates: 10/21/2020, 1/27/2021, and 4/27/2021)

Board members volunteered to serve on three scholarship subcommittees from a standing list of 13 continuing student scholarships. Selection committees were comprised of three BUSHFA members and an OFAS scholarship officer. Due to the volume of applications submitted via the new centralized scholarship platform, OFAS used a rubric to create a shortlist of student applications for BUSHFA members to review. The shortlisted applications were shared electronically with each subcommittee in early May. BUSHFA asked if the rubric used to create the shortlist could also be included and if OFAS could highlight any unique criteria for each scholarship, but members agreed they should not inadvertently put weight on the criteria as to disadvantage the student.

BUSHFA members found it helpful to have scheduled subcommittee zoom meetings to formulate a final ranking consensus. The board encouraged OFAS to incorporate this practice into the yearly review timeline.

The Board discussed adding additional scholarships to the standing list of 13 scholarships, but members felt the workload would be too great with the increase in student applications. OFAS suggested the Board review annually the most impactful and prestigious scholarships available on the centralized platform and choose to substitute or add to the list.

D. Centralized Scholarship Platform

(Status updates every meeting)

Members commented how well the 2019-20 online scholarship platform worked and appreciated the composition of the subcommittees and OFAS ability to pull in faculty from other lists or schools to cover absent members.

The Board will provide feedback on the 2020-21 review process to OFAS in the fall.

E. Participation in Scholarships Opportunities Program (SOP) Campus Endorsement Interviews

(Meeting dates: 10/21/2020 and 4/27/2021)

SOP solicited Board members to participate in campus endorsement student interviews for the Fulbright, Gates Cambridge, Marshall Mitchell, Rhoads, and Hennessy scholarship programs in August 2021. Endorsement interviews for the Beinecke and Goldwater Scholarships will take place in October 2021.

The Scholarship Opportunities Program staff expressed their deepest gratitude to BUSHFA members Ali Mohraz and J.J. Emerson for their participation in campus endorsement committees in the fall and winter quarters of the 2020-21 academic year.

BUSHFA members who are rotating off were encouraged to continue their participation with endorsement interviews by contacting the SOP office.

Final application numbers and endorsement selections will be reported at BUSHFA's October 2021 meeting.

F. Scholarship Opportunities Program

(Status updates every meeting)

The Scholarship Opportunities program advises and supports students to prepare competitive applications for 21 prestigious awards and scholarships on a national and international level. The California Capital Fellows, Scholarship for Service Program (SMART), National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship, and NOAA Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship were added to the original slate of 17 sponsored scholarships, bringing the new total to 21 awards supported by SOP.

SOP builds campus awareness of the opportunities available by conducting workshops and outreach events. SOP encourages faculty and Board members to visit the SOP website, scholars.uci.edu/faculty-staff/ to refer students and request a workshop or presentation for their class or

school.

G. Campuswide Honors Collegium (CHC)

(Status updates every meeting)

CHC is an academic program for all four years with an undergraduate research component. The Campuswide Honors Collegium Board, a board of the Academic Senate successfully recruited 370 students for the AY 2020-21, exceeding its goal of 325. CHC leadership believes the ability to provide Regents scholarships to many of these students contributed to their successful recruitment.

The Campuswide Honors Collegium office moved into the newly created “Student Excellence Center,” part of Pillar 2 (First in Class) of UCI’s Strategic Plan to centralize undergraduate services in one location. The center includes offices for Campuswide Honors Collegium, Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program, and Scholarship Opportunities Program, and has student study space and classrooms with interactive learning technology supported by the libraries.

III. Continuing Business

The Board will consider the following issues for 2021-22:

- Latin Honors Review
- Online Restricted Scholarships
- Esports Scholarship Criteria (as needed)
- Centralized Scholarship Platform
- Vice Chair Roles
- Distinguished Scholarships

IV. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Faculty Members

- David Timberlake, Chair, Health Sciences
- James Emerson, Biological Sciences
- Raymond Klefstad, Information and Computer Sciences
- Constance Iloh, Education
- Larisa Castillo, Humanities
- Philip Thompson, Arts
- Ali Mohraz, Engineering
- Shuya Yin, Business
- Richard Brestoff, Arts
- Angela Jenks, Social Science
- Susan King, Physical Sciences
- Kristine Molina, Social Ecology

Ex-Officio

- Michael Dennin, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education
- Willie Banks, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
- Jonathan Alexander, Associate Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education
- Brice Kikuchi, Associate Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs

Consultants

Rose Jones, Director, Scholarship Opportunities Program
Richard (Kuni) Kondo, Financial Aid and Scholarships
Fabian Firoozi, Assistant Director, Scholarships
Rebecca Sanchez, Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships
Mark Naimie, Associate Director, Admissions and Relations with Schools
Lisa Roetzel, Director, Administration, Campuswide Honors Collegium

Representatives

Nicole Arnold, LAUC-I
Sylvie Xu, ASUCI (fall quarter)
Sabrina Rashid, ASUCI (winter and spring quarters)

Senate Analyst, Rachel Mangold