

**BOARD ON UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND FINANCIAL AID  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2017-2018**

**To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:**

The Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2017-18.

**I. Council Operations**

Dominik Wodarz, Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, School of Biological Sciences, chaired the Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) in 2017-18. The Council met three times during the year. The meetings were attended by ten elected members, the Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships (ex officio), the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and Dean, Division of Undergraduate Education (ex officio), the Librarians' Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, and the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI) Representative, the Associate Director for the Campuswide Honors Program, the Associate Director, Admissions & Relations with Schools, and the Director, 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 2016-17 Latin Honors**

*(Meeting dates: 10/25/2017, 1/24/2018; Memos: 11/2/2017)*

Board members reviewed the 2016-17 Latin Honors percentages submitted by each school and noted how these numbers compared to previous reviews. According to Regulation 415, the maximum award amount for each school is 16% broken down into three categories: honors – *cum laude* (top 5 - 10%), high honors– *magna cum laude* (top 2 - 4%), and highest honors – *summa cum laude* (top 2%). No more than 16% of a school's graduating class can be awarded honors.

Members noted that certain academic units, such as Pharmaceutical Sciences and Information and Computer Sciences (ICS) deviated from these thresholds, with ICS awarding over the percentage and Pharmaceutical Sciences awarding well below the percentage. Memos were sent to Pharmaceutical Sciences and ICS on 11/2/2017. BUSHFA received a response from ICS on 12/18/2017 assuring the Board that the percentages would be adjusted. Pharmaceutical Sciences replied on 1/25/2018 and also assured the Board that the percentages would be adjusted.

ASUCI conducted a survey on Latin Honors. There were 112 responses, with the majority being from Social Sciences. Participants overwhelmingly agreed that knowing they will graduate with Latin Honors was important. Participants also agreed that the process for Latin Honors selection should be more transparent and displayed on Schools' websites.

The Board continued its annual review of Latin Honors to address issues as they arise. The Board will also attempt to provide a standard or equitable process for review of Latin Honors across Schools and majors.

**B. Scholarship Opportunities Program**

*(Meeting dates: 10/25/2017)*

The Board was presented with a brief summary of the Scholarship Opportunities Program applicants and considered volunteer to participate in campus endorsement interviews for the applicants.

Members were informed that the SOP assists undergraduate students and recent graduates with the application process for 15 prestigious merit national/international scholarships. The Goldwater Scholarship is an undergraduate research award for Science, Math, Engineering, and ICS students. It provides \$7,500 per year for up to two years of support.

Summer volunteer opportunities also exist such as for the Fulbright Scholarship. The Fulbright Scholarship is an abroad program and is seen as the most popular program. Students are sent abroad for one year to conduct research, complete a year graduate level study in fields that usually are not supported in the United States, or participate in English Teaching Assistant Programs. About 140 countries are offered with some awards requiring particular language skills.

Interviews are typically one hour per student with some time spent outside of the interviews reviewing the materials.

In 2017 467 students (an 8.6% increase) attended SOP's Big Workshops outreach events (recruitment for the 15 merit national/international awards mentioned in agenda item #1).

Rose Jones was named the new Director of the SOP.

**C. UCI Medal**

*(Meeting dates: none)*

BUSHFA requested a presentation detailing an overview of what has historically happened with scholarship funds raised from the UCI Medal, which were originally designated for student support. In May 2016, the analyst was informed that the Medal is being revamped and Advancement had no updates to share at that time. The Board would still like to have Advancement attend to discuss past funds raised.

Financial Aid contacted Advancement to encourage a representative to attend and present at the April 25th BUSHFA meeting. However, Advancement declined to attend and present for that date, but suggested that someone may be able to attend in Fall 2018.

**D. Online Restricted Scholarships**

*(Meeting dates: 1/24/2018, 4/25/2018; Memo date: 2/6/2018)*

The Board was presented with a brief summary of the Restricted Scholarship Application Review Process for 2017-18.

Online applications opened in January. Some students were contacted for specific scholarships. Financial Aid filtered candidates by criteria and qualifications. Members absent during the assignments meeting were randomly assigned to the subcommittees. Members questioned how financial need was determined for each candidate, and it was explained that issues such as food and housing

insecurity were taken into consideration. Lead reviewers were assigned to each scholarship to facilitate the process.

Members expressed concern over the Nevin scholarship, and sent a memo to Financial Aid stating that there was serious issue regarding the restrictive criteria for this scholarship. Particularly that the criteria may limit academic freedom. The Board chose not to review that scholarship, and will not review other scholarships with restrictive research criteria in the future.

Finalizing the scholarship applications took longer than expected due to technical issues and that the office is short-staffed. Members were emailed directions on how to access the tool for review of the scholarships. A member questioned whether the awards could be sent to reviewers as they were ready instead of all at once, as there was concern the faculty would not have sufficient time to review. Financial Aid was asked about this possibility, but stated that was not possible due to the current process.

Winners were publicized by being distributed to the Scholarship Opportunities Program (SOP) at the end of the academic year. Endorsement interviews with the SOP will take place in October 2018.

The Board will discuss the process again beginning Fall 2018.

**E. Financial Aid**

*(Status updates every meeting; Memo date: 1/7/2017)*

The Office of Financial Aid offers an opportunity grant (from the Office of the President) which provides two year funding to undocumented students (priority is given to non-DACA students who are unable to work). For 2016-17 the grant was offered as a straight scholarship but for the 2017-18 goal there was a desire to make the grant more geared towards student experience. The goal was also to build a program and continue to extend the number of years the grant will be available.

There were approximately 100,000 FAFSA applications for 2018-19. Financial aid information and admits went out to Honors students in February. Other admits went out in April, and transfer admits in May.

An issue was raised by Financial Aid and Scholarships representatives. There was concern that Financial Aid and Scholarships and Admissions work as singular areas regarding strategic decisions to yield. It was suggested that both areas would benefit from an enrollment model that is more representative of a particular year's admissions goals. The current model is not performing well, as Financial Aid only yielded 10 Regents' students from 100 offers. If Financial Aid and Scholarships were to work more collaboratively, and to share annual admission and enrollment goals, the funds awarded to admitted students should yield more top scholars for UCI. The Board unanimously approved this strategic management change.

**F. Continuing Business**

The Board will consider the following issues for 2018-19:

Latin Honors Review

Online Restricted Scholarships

UCI Medal/Advancement

**IV. BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

**Faculty Members**

Dominik Wodarz, Chair, Biological Sciences

Jiawei Chen, Social Sciences

Ellen Druffel, Physical Sciences

Kristen Hatch, Humanities

Wayne Hayes, ICS

Andrej Luptak, Health Sciences

Jane Page, Arts

Jenny Rinehart, Social Ecology

Frank Shi, Engineering

Shuya Yin, Business

**Ex-Officio**

Michael Dennin, Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and Dean of Undergraduate Education

Thomas Parham, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

**Consultants**

Rose Jones, Director, Scholarship Opportunities Program

Richard (Kuni) Kondo, Financial Aid and Scholarships

Mark Naimie, Associate Director, Admissions and Relations with Schools

Lisa Roetzel, Director, Administration, Campuswide Honors Program

Rebecca Sanchez, Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships

**Representatives**

John Sisson, LAUC-I

Rasika Athavale, ASUCI

**Senate Analyst**

Julie Kennedy