

**BOARD ON UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS, HONORS AND FINANCIAL AID
ANNUAL REPORT
2019-20**

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:

The Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2019-20

I. Council Operations

Jiawei Chen, Associate Professor of Economics, School of Social Sciences, chaired the Board on Undergraduate Scholarships, Honors & Financial Aid (BUSHFA) in 2019-20. The Council met three times during the year. The meetings were attended by ten elected members, the Assistant Director of Scholarships, a representative from the Office of the Vice Provost for Teaching and Learning and Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education (ex officio), a representative from the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs (ex officio), the Librarians' Association of the University of California, Irvine (LAUC-I) Representative, the Associated Students of University of California, Irvine (ASUCI) Representative, the Director for the Campuswide Honors Collegium, the Associate Director of Admissions & Relations with Schools, 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 2018-19 Latin Honors

(Meeting dates: 10/23/2019, 1/22/2020 and 4/29/2020; Memo: 11/1/2019)

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.

BUSHFA understands there is a variation of importance of awarding Latin Honors by School and there is not one standard across Schools, but each academic year one or two Schools will deviate from the 16% threshold. On 11/15/2019, BUSHFA solicited Schools' current criteria when awarding Latin Honors and suggested guidelines that Schools may wish to incorporate into their current criteria when determining which students will receive Latin Honors. School responses were discussed at the board's 4/29/2020 meeting.

In 2018-19, the School of Humanities awarded Latin Honors to 19.96% of its students, 3.96% over the threshold. On 3/9/2020 the School informed BUSHFA the criteria used to determine Latin Honors is based on a student's cumulative three-year average GPA, awarded quarterly and GPA data provided by the Registrar's Office. The School will remedy the overage next academic year by adjusting the cutoffs with more weight toward the 2018-2019 actual numbers,

instead of using the three-year average. If that effort is not successful, the School will move to awarding Latin Honors annually.

A few School responses noted that the Advising Office was looking into ideas to standardize the process for awarding Latin Honors centrally through the Registrar's Office. BUSHFA invited Heather Cartagena, Executive Director of Advising, to the 4/29/2020 meeting to learn more.

The Board will continue 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.

B. Academic Advising

(Meeting date: 4/29/2020; Memo: 5/22/2020)

Heather Cartagena, Executive Director of Advising, proposed options to BUSHFA at the 4/29/2020 meeting with the goal of centralizing how Latin Honors are awarded. Under the current Regulation 415, each School chooses its own process for determining Latin Honors while adhering to the 16% figure. Most, but not all, Schools determine Latin Honors solely based on students' GPAs, and among the Schools that rely solely on students' GPAs, the standards and processes vary.

Options 1A and 1B would have Latin Honors awarded based on unchanging GPA ranges. The GPA ranges would apply equally across all Schools and would be applied quarterly to graduating students' transcripts by the Registrar. There would be no preset limits to the percentage or number of students receiving Latin Honors. Options 1A and 1B differ in terms of the GPA cutoffs for the three levels of honor.

Options 2A and 2B would maintain the current 16% figure of awarding Latin Honors in each School but would standardize the process via the Registrar. The Registrar would provide GPA cutoffs for each School in advance of the coming academic year based on GPA data from the previous three years, and annual GPA cutoffs would be published online by September each year to provide greater clarity to all students about what is required to graduate with Latin Honors. The Registrar would apply Latin Honors quarterly to graduating students' transcripts. Options 2A and 2B differ in terms of the percentages allotted to the three levels of honor.

Following the Executive Director of Advising's presentation and a subsequent discussion during the 4/29/2020 meeting, BUSHFA held a vote on this issue electronically. On 5/22/2020, BUSHFA submitted its recommendation for consideration to the Council on Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience that the existing Regulation 415 be modified to adopt Option 2B, which would maintain the existing percentages (2% summa cum laude, 4% magna cum laude, and 10% cum laude) but rely solely on students' GPAs and standardize the process via the Registrar. While 16% would remain the goal each year, minor year-to-year deviation from the 16% figure would be expected and permitted since the GPA cutoffs would be determined in advance.

BUSHFA looks forward to CTLSE suggestions and returning to this issue in the next academic year.

- C. Bylaw 138. Teaching, Learning, and Student Experience, Council on**
(Meeting date: 1/22/2020; Memos: 11/1/2019 and 1/1/2020)
BUSHFA proposed to modify the Board's membership from 10 members to 12 members in efforts to broaden and increase faculty representation on scholarship committees. The proposal will also change ex-officio members from the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs and the Vice Provost of Teaching and Learning to representative from these offices. The Divisional Assembly approved these modifications at the 5/13/2020 meeting.

- D. Online Restricted Scholarships 2019-2020**
(Meeting dates: 10/23/2019, 1/22/2020, and 4/29/2020)
AY 2019-20 Board members were assigned to serve on three selection committees for 13 continuing student scholarships. Selection committees included two OFAS scholarship officers and three BUSHFA members. Members in their second and third year terms were assigned as committee leads. OFAS provided members a ranked short list of applications and instructions how to access materials on the new centralized scholarship platform. Selection meetings were held via Zoom on 5/28 – 5/29, 2020. Starting in AY 2020-21, the scholarship timeline will be condensed, enabling BUSHFA to review up to 25 scholarships.

The Board will discuss the review process at the fall 2020 meeting and provide suggestions and improvements to OFAS.

- E. Centralized Scholarship Platform**
(Status updates every meeting)
Fabian Firoozi, Assistant Director of Scholarships, updated the Board on the AY 2020-21 centralized scholarship platform and timeline. Financial Aid and Scholarships collaborated with University Advancement to centralize the scholarship process and the endowment, contract, and gift agreement processes to provide a reliable funding model and improved overall management. The new scholarship platform will align with UCI's strategic plan and focus on retaining current students, rewarding engagement in campus organizations and social causes, and increasing merit scholarships. OFAS will continue to work with Schools' development offices to maintain donor funding for scholarships.

- F. Esports Scholarships**
(Meeting date: 10/23/2019)
The Director of Esports, Mark Deppe, and Faculty Advisor, Andre van der Hoek (Informatics), presented updates to the Board about Esports scholarships.

Since 2016, Esports has awarded with scholarships totaling \$304,260 (with UCI funding) and competition-funded scholarships totaling \$159,000. In 2020-21, Esports will offer in a donor-funded, non-competitive Health and Wellness in Esports Scholarship for two undergraduate students.

Esports Scholarship Committee Membership:
James Hicks, Professor and Chair, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology*
Nancy Aguilar-Boca, Associate Professor of Teaching, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology*
Mark Deppe, Esports Director
Courtney Burkes, Assistant Director of Fitness & Wellness
Haylesh Patal, Student Affairs
(* recommended by BUSHFA to serve)

At this time, Esports does not have the intent to provide academic scholarships that BUSHFA would oversee, but the Board looks forward to reviewing the Esports scholarship FAQs, criteria, and selection process or providing oversight if deemed necessary.

G. Participation in SOP Campus Endorsement Interviews

(Meeting date: 10/23/2019)

SOP manages the university-level application evaluation and endorsement process and advises undergraduates and recent graduates on applying for 17 annual prestigious awards. SOP solicited Board members to participate in campus endorsement interviews for students applying for these scholarships. Endorsement interviews for the Beinecke and Goldwater Scholarships will take place in October 2020 and readers with expertise in the Math, Science, and Engineering fields were encouraged to read Goldwater applications.

The Killam Fellow Program was added to the SOP slate of sponsored scholarships in July 2019 during an official signing ceremony between Executive Director of Fulbright Canada Michael Hawes and Vice Provost Dennin.

The Scholarship Opportunities Program expressed thanks to Professor Ali Mohraz, Chemical Engineering & Materials Science for participation in campus endorsement committees for Goldwater and Truman applications.

H. Financial Aid

(Status updates every meeting)

OFAS created a scholarship that will consist of a \$2,500 award for four years for two honors freshman students and two honors transfer students. OFAS also created two new scholarships for first generation students and non-resident students.

I. Scholarship Opportunities Program

(Status updates every meeting)

SOP continues to build awareness across campus by conducting outreach events for Schools, departments, faculty gatherings, and campus scholar organizations. In 2019-20, SOP increased the number of outreach workshops presented on specific disciplinary themes. The overall attendance of 286 students was significantly lower than the previous year's total of 469 students. The decline could be attributed to COVID-19 concerns, but despite low attendance, SOP saw 92 pre-

applications, exceeding last year's record of 80. Application numbers and endorsements will be reported at BUSHFA's October 2020 meeting.

Due to COVID concerns, student participation in the Fulbright and newly established Hawes Fulbright Canada programs may be affected.

III. Continuing Business

The Board will consider the following issues for 2020-21:

Latin Honors Review
Online Restricted Scholarships
Esports Scholarship Criteria (as needed)
Latin Honors Proposal to Modify Regulation 415

IV. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Faculty Members

Jiawei Chen, Chair, Social Sciences
James Emerson, Biological Sciences
Tammy Smecker-Hane, Physical Sciences
Raymond Klefstad, Information and Computer Sciences
David Timberlake, Health Sciences
Constance Iloh, Education
Larisa Castillo, Humanities
Philip Thompson, Arts
Ali Mohraz, Engineering
Shuya Yin, Business

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
Michael Nguyen, ASUCI (Fall Quarter)
Zayn Sikander Suhale, ASUCI (Winter and Spring Quarters)

Senate Analyst, Rachel Mangold