

Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools 2017-2018 Annual Report

To the Irvine Divisional Assembly:

The Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) respectfully submits its report of activities for the 2017-18 academic year.

I. Council Operations

CUARS is charged with the following, per its bylaw:

- Making recommendations regarding policies on admissions, enrollments, and outreach activities to the administration and to the Academic Senate, and providing faculty coordination for outreach activities.
- Monitoring 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.
- Maintaining liaison with the system wide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) in overseeing all matters relating to the admissions of undergraduate students.

Julie Ferguson, Lecturer with Potential Security of Employment in Earth System Science, chaired the Council on Undergraduate Admissions & Relations with Schools (CUARS) in 2017-18. CUARS member, Laura O'Connor, served as the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) Representative, and 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 Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management (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. Throughout the year, the Interim Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions and the Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management kept CUARS well-informed of the activities and status of Admissions/Enrollment and provided comments and advice when requested.

II. Divisional Issues/Policies

A. Internal Audit Report from November 7, 2017

CUARS members discussed the internal audit report, requested by Chancellor Gillman, at the December 12, 2017 CUARS meeting. This audit report reviewed the circumstances that led to a larger-than-expected number of admitted freshman students choosing to come to UCI and the decisions made in summer 2017 that led to some of these offers being rescinded. The Director of Admissions (Patricia Morales) and the Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Services (Edgar

Dormitorio) fielded questions from the CUARS members about the report. The following are some of the main takeaways from the discussion:

- UCI will no longer complete the Academic Credit Review (ACR) of all incoming applicants before reviewing their applications. This will align UCI with the other UC campuses and will allow the increasingly large number of applications to be reviewed more quickly by readers. (Previously under ACR, only students who held a 3.0 weighted GPA and had met the A-G curricular requirements were entitled to a review. However very few students who are competitive in UCI's admission process do not meet these requirements and so it is seen as an unnecessary, time-consuming step at this point).
- A new Student Information System is being developed that will allow easier communication with applicants and accepted students. It will allow admissions staff to follow-up with students who have not submitted necessary materials in the summer.
- The number of staff working in the Admissions Office is low compared to other campuses and they are being stretched by both the increasing number of applications received and the ongoing efforts to switch to a new Student Information System. This is something that CUARS should monitor.
- UCI received yet another record number of applicants; per UCI's Office of Institutional Research, there was an increase in transfer students and in particular majors (i.e. business admin, computer sciences, etc.).
- CUARS expressed its desire to stay informed about admissions-related decisions, even during summer months when the full Council does not have scheduled meetings.

B. Admissions Reports

Associate Vice Chancellor Morales and Interim Executive Director Hwang provided regular admissions updates to the CUARS members. They provided data on the 2017 and 2018 fall applicants and provided an overview of the changes to admissions that followed the introduction of the Personal Insight Questions (PIQs)-specifically that Supplemental Review was no longer being carried out. They also described the admit growth in the Campuswide Honors Program, highlighted UCI's increasing competitiveness, and reviewed data related to the waitlists and SIRs for 2018-19 enrollment. The acceptance rate for incoming freshman this year at UCI, and also at other UC campuses, was again higher than anticipated.

C. Enrollment Concerns

The over-enrollment from Fall 2017, and rapid growth of the undergraduate student population over the past 5 years, led to numerous conversations within CUARS about the impact of the growth in specific majors on classroom and laboratory space, faculty and administrative workload, and student success (i.e. time-to-degree). CUARS discussed the need for new strategies to manage growth in impacted majors.

D. Transfer Students

Several topics involving transfer students were introduced this year:

- The UC had to meet a 2:1 transfer student ratio to ensure the release of \$50 million funding from the California state government this year. UCI successfully achieved the 2:1 ratio and is fortunate to have several local community colleges

that produce qualified applicants. However some UC campuses struggle to reach this ratio. In particular UC Riverside has been expanding its efforts to attract more transfer students and this may influence the number of students who apply to UCI. A concern is that freshmen admissions may have to be limited so that the transfer student ratio can be achieved.

- Some UCs started winter admissions. Concern was raised as students who are not admitted to their preferred schools may decide to apply for winter instead of waiting the entire year to apply to schools again which may affect the number of transfer students applying to UCI.
- The Transfer Admission Guarantee [TAG] program generally accounted for 10-15% of UCI's transfer students; UCI does not offer TAG for nursing, business, and arts programs (Berkeley, UCLA and UCSD do not offer any TAGs).
- Concerns were expressed over executing the "transfer guarantee" rollout that President Napolitano initiated – see section III, C.

E. Admissions Pilot Assessment

The Council reviewed the Physical Sciences and Engineering admissions pilots and determined the additional data they wanted for the pilots' final reviews which will take place in fall 2018.

III. Systemwide Issues/Policies

A. Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (Area "d") Requirement

In Fall 2017, the Academic Council requested a review of the proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (Area "d") Requirement. The proposed revisions were a result of the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards for California Public Schools. If approved, UC Undergraduate Admissions would implement the policy change effective with the Fall 2023 entering freshman class. CUARS was concerned about the potential negative impact on students from lower resourced CA public high schools and Humanities/Arts applicants. The new standard would require freshman applicants to have a third year of laboratory science. Five percent of past applicants had not completed three years of laboratory science. This group was likely to be composed of minority students, students who did not attend a school that was adequately resourced to offer three years of laboratory science, and/or Art majors who had taken an elective in the place of a third year of science. In addition, it was unclear how the proposed revisions to requirement "d" would better prepare students for a UC education. The Council on Educational Policy (CEP) shared many of the same concerns. The Cabinet forwarded the councils' comments to the Academic Council. This regulation change was approved by BOARS and is awaiting approval by The Regents.

B. Proposed Amendment to Academic Senate Bylaw 128

The Academic Council requested a review of the proposed addition to Academic Senate Bylaw 128 that governs conflict of interest on Senate committees, subcommittees, and task forces. The proposed addition to Senate Bylaw 128 delineated a multi-layer process for addressing conflict of interest. Senate Chair Pantelia requested CUARS review the proposed amendment to the Academic Senate Bylaw 128. CUARS members chose not to opine.

C. "Transfer Guarantee" Memorandum of Understanding

CUARS reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding between UC and California Community Colleges, signed in April 2018, that is designed to provide a “transfer guarantee” to qualified California-resident students from California Community Colleges. Per the agreement, this must be in place by Fall 2019 and will most likely make use of the existing 21 UC Transfer Pathways. The existing TAG programs at individual campuses will remain in place. There is considerable work to be done over the coming year for this system to be ready in time.

IV. Guests

A. Oscar Teran, Director of the DREAM Center

Oscar Teran was invited to the March 13, 2018 CUARS meeting to provide information about the undocumented student population at UCI, the impact and implications of the potential decisions regarding DACA/DREAMers, as well as best practices for supporting undocumented students.

V. Council Membership

Members (and substitutes)

Julie Ferguson, Physical Sciences, Chair
Susana Cohen-Cory, Biological Sciences
Jeanett Castellanos, Social Sciences
Jade Jenkins, Education - (Di Xu, Winter '18 and Spring '18)
Candice Odgers, Social Ecology
S. Ama Wray, Arts - (Lukas Ligeti, Winter '18 and Spring '18)
Laura O'Connor, Humanities
Morton Pincus, Business - (Siew Teoh, Fall '18)
Miryha Runnerstrom, Health Sciences (Public Health)
Ahmed Eltawil, Engineering
Zhaoxia Yu, ICS

Ex Officio

Patricia Morales, Director, Admissions & Relations with Schools (ended 1/24/18)
Tony Hwang, Interim Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions (began 1/5/18)

Consultants

Brent Yunek, Associate VC, Enrollment Services (ended 10/23/17)
Patricia Morales, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management (began 1/5/18)

Representatives

Krystal Tribbett, Librarians Association of the University of California, Irvine
Angeline Phan, Associated Students University of California, Irvine (Rohit Sriram, Winter '18)
Eleanor Kaplan-kelly, Associated Graduate Students University of California, Irvine (Brian Casas, Winter '18 and Spring '18)