To be received and placed on file:

The Undergraduate Council met 4 times during 2008-2009.

1. The Conflict of Interest Statement was readopted for 2008-2009.

2. The Committee reviewed the proposed Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan and did not have any comments. The Undergraduate Council rarely deals directly with financial aspects of admissions issues. As the program moves forward and to the extent it deals with other aspects of the admission process, the Committee may have more to add.

3. At the BOARS meeting on December 11, 2008, President Yudof presented his plan for enrollment targets for next year. We learned that our freshmen target would be lowered and at the same time our transfer target would be increased. At that meeting, we were told that campuses would be penalized for not meeting their assigned targets, whether by over- or under-enrollment, because UCOP was concerned about public perception. Later, this warning was relaxed in recognition of the difficulty of hitting targets in such an uncertain fiscal climate.

4. The Committee considered a proposal from Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE) to change the credits given to AP and IB courses for undergraduate admissions and separate proposals from BCOE and College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) to change the admissions requirements for transfer students. The Committee unanimously approved the BCOE proposal for articulation of AP and IB courses as well as the BCOE proposal to accept IGETC (Inter-segmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). The CNAS proposal to accept IGETC with additional requirements, by major, in the form of preparatory science courses raised concerns and was not approved. The Committee met later with CNAS representatives to share concerns about transfer admissions.

5. The Committee considered a revised version of the proposal for a pilot project that would allow topical concentrations of lower and upper division courses to satisfy UCR’s General Education requirements. The Committee found merit in the concept of focused concentrations but remained troubled by the sample curricula and recommended that the trial concentrations be rolled out in less haste. The committee felt that the proposal failed to establish clearly what needed to be fixed and why.

6. The Committee continued to monitor reactions to BOARS revision of Undergraduate Eligibility for admission to the University of California, as it won Regental approval and became
a subject of public comment. The Committee reviewed Regulation changes drafted by BOARS and UCOP to implement the new Regental policy.

7. With invaluable support from the AVC for Enrolment Management and the Director of Admissions, the Committee continues to monitor the current admissions cycle at UCR as a first step toward developing a timeline to meet the forthcoming eligibility reforms and implementation of system-wide sharing of the initial review of applicant files.

8. The Committee considered the Senate Reorganization Proposal and the council structure of the Senate. The committee offered comments on the changes proposed and the new hierarchial arrangement of committees. UGC recommended the formation of an Undergraduate Admissions Committee in place of the Undergraduate Council, but were not ready to endorse the entire reorganization proposal. The main concern was that the additional level of bureaucracy would add needlessly to the workload of the Academic Senate and, especially, to its staff. It was unclear at what level in the new structure decisions would be finalized. The potential for duplication and procedural confusion could outweigh the advantages of synergy between committee chairs, especially if the Councils are enlarged by members not serving on the committee clusters.

9. The Committee proposed a change to Bylaw 8.23; – the proposal would replace the name Undergraduate Council with Undergraduate Admissions and limit its charge to admissions-related business. UCR is the only UC campus that has representation on the system-wide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) but does not have a dedicated Admissions Committee or sub-committee. The committee needs more time for systematic monitoring of admissions trends here and at the institutions with which UCR competes for students; the need for these activities is increasing dramatically as admission to UCR becomes more selective. The necessary level of activity is not sustainable in those periods when Undergraduate Council is requested to consider matters unrelated to admissions that overlap with the charges to other Senate committees. The Committee approved of the proposed Bylaw change unanimously.

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