To be received and placed on file:

To date, the Undergraduate Admissions Committee (UGA) has met 8 times during 2009-2010.

1. The Conflict of Interest Statement was readopted for 2009-2010.

2. The Committee reviewed the Proposal to Divide Finance and Management Science into two departments and did not have any substantive comment on this proposal.

3. UGA discussed the proposed changes in procedures for election of the Division Senate leadership positions and unanimously approved the proposal.

4. With regard to UCR’s strategic planning process, the Committee was charged with responding to the initial report of the Subcommittee on Excellence in Undergraduate Education. UGA offered the following recommendations, observations and suggestions:

**Academic Advising** – In the Committee’s view and from its collective experience, campus advisors do their best work with freshman and sophomores; their function and success with juniors and seniors is less clear. The committee wondered if some upper division and major-focused advising might not be directed to faculty, or faculty-advisor teams; such individualized advising could be more effective than offering more general advice in classes such as the proposed seminars. The Committee realized that this report is a strategic vision statement and not a settled blueprint but felt that some recognition of resource commitment is important in sorting out priorities and in identifying timelines. UGA asked for clarification of the term “proactive advising” and how this differs from UCR’s current practice.

**First Year Learning Communities** – The Committee felt that the report’s evidence for success is tempered by two factors: the relatively short history of these courses on our campus and the self-selecting nature of participants, the latter factor influencing retention rates. UGA applauded the restatement of UCR’s commitment to serving local and regional populations, many of whom are first-generation college students. However, an observation among the committee members was that a “one size fits all” approach may disadvantage students on both ends of the spectrum. Several members of UGA suggested that the Freshman Discovery Seminars be revived and reconfigured to serve the best purposes of the proposed ignition seminars, help students feel personally connected to faculty and a research-oriented peer group.

**Admissions** - UGA agreed with the report’s recommendation to realign admissions criteria and recruitment policies. In accordance with the new Freshman Eligibility Construct approved by the Board of Regents on February 5, 2009, UGA is presently undertaking a thorough review of current practices in order to put forth new policies and practices for approval and implementation in Fall 2012. UCR already undertakes a “comprehensive review” of admissions files. The report’s recommendations are that UCR more toward a “holistic” or possibly even a “full read” of admissions files in order to increase selectivity while maintaining diversity and access. The
Committee is actively considering the range of options available given the need to balance desired outcomes with fiscal constraints.

5. UGA annually reviews Admission by Exception criteria. This year, UGA considered proposed changes for international students, arising from the following factors: (1) due to these students location, they are often unable to take the required examinations; (2) language limitations sometimes prevent them from being successful in taking those examinations. Admissions wanted to create a pipeline through the Extension Center whereby international students could take an intensive English program once graduated from high school. Once they have completed the program, they would take the English as a Foreign Language (TOFUL); if they get a passing score on the English proficiency and take the required SAT exams, they would then be offered admission to UCR. There may be nine international students coming in for Fall 2010. These students bring in their own revenue and there are no caps anywhere in the UC system to the number of international students. The maximum number of students that can be enrolled by exception per BOARs is 6%. The committee approved the Admission by Exception criteria for Fall 2011.

6. UGA is in the process of reviewing Phase II of the Comprehensive Review. For Fall 2012 the eligibility construct is changing and UC will no longer be requiring that students take the subject exams, and the guarantee of admission changes from 12.% to about 10%. The task for the present quarter is to review the other campuses processes and models.

7. The Home Scholars Pilot Program started in 2006 when UGA (then Undergraduate Council) approved the implementation of a pilot program/alternate pathway to admission for students who are home schooled and thus can’t meet the regular pathways for admission due to lack of approved course lists with the UC system. The interest in the program has been small: there are eight applicants for Fall 2010. The students do very well here, their average high school GPAs of 4.02 and first quarter average GPAs at UCR of around 3.36. The Committee unanimously approved the pilot program to continue for one final year; once new guidelines for Phase II of the Comprehensive Review are approved, it is expected that home schooled students will be able to receive Admissions consideration under the new rubric.

8. With invaluable support from the AVC for Enrollment Management, LaRae Lundgren, and the Director of Admissions, Merlyn Campos, 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.

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