COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS  
NOVEMBER 2, 2016  
MINUTES

PRESENT: P. Sadler, Chair; K. Abdulrazak; U. Jayakumar; M. Molle; D. Volz

GUESTS: J. Li, ASUCR Student Rep.

ABSENT: K. Neville; J. Sandoval, Ex Officio

Chair Pete Sadler called the meeting to order at 10:10AM.

The Chair informed the Committee that the Committee on Committees is still working to appoint a faculty member to the vacant position on the Committee. The Chair shared with the Committee that he met with Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research Allison Cantwell and discussed Institutional Research’s role in developing data models for admissions. The Chair asked if members are interested in running data models to track admissions. The Chair reported that the Director of Undergraduate Admissions Emily Engelschall had shared with him a proposal from UC Berkeley (UCB) to eliminate the SAT score from the admissions requirements at UCB. The Chair commented that BOARS has advised that any changes to campus admissions policy would need to be reviewed by all campuses. The Chair updated the Committee on the UCB pilot to request letters of recommendation for admissions and shared that UCB is providing training sessions for letter writers. The Committee commented that these training sessions can be considered problematic as not all letter writers will be able attend the sessions, which would disadvantage students whose writers were not able to attend training seminars.

The Committee approved the minutes from the October 19, 2016 meeting. The Chair recommended that going forward the minutes be streamlined so that attention to detail is diminished and only the key points of meetings are included. The Committee commented that the minutes should clearly differentiate between members and guests.

The Chair gave the Committee an update from the agenda for the November 4, 2016 Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) meeting agenda. BOARS will continue discussions on the proposal to include Computer Science and Earth Science course work in the A-G requirements. The agenda also includes items to discuss transfer pathways and compare favorably. UCB is scheduled to present a report on the letters of recommendation pilot study.

The Chair shared with the Committee a copy of a document providing an overview of changes to the UC Berkeley Freshman Admissions Policy, which provided the committee with a statistical summary and more insight into the reasons for requiring letters of recommendation. The Chair reported that other campuses are not supportive of UCB’s request for letters of recommendation to be included in the admissions process.

The Committee continued the discussion from last meeting on GPA cutoffs for transfer students. At the October 19, 2016 meeting the Committee discussed the fact that the GPA cutoff for transfer students is higher than the GPA of 2.0 that is required for students to stay at UCR and discussed the possibility of lowering the GPA cutoff for transfer students to increase transfer admissions. The Committee questioned how UCR compares the recruiting success of transfer students versus freshmen admit student’s success. The Committee discussed what statistics need to be evaluated to increase success
rates of transfer students including the percentage of students that have to work. The Committee discussed the Blue & Gold tuition assistance program and the possibility that it be advertised more for transfer students. The Committee questioned if underperforming undergraduate students are taking the transfer students spots at UCR. The Committee examined if additional funding could be used to increase transfer admissions and the Chair reminded the Committee that the Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment LaRae Lundgren is to share with the Committee the proposal for funding that was received from UCOP for UCR admitting students from the ELC pool.

The Committee discussed outreach and how the Committee should proceed with exploring outreach activities at UCR. The Committee discussed requesting data to document the geographic regions that outreach activities are conducted in. The Committee questioned how many academic departments on campus participate in outreach. The Committee recommended that outreach be explored more to determine where gaps are and address them with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12PM.

Approved:

Prepared by: Beth Beatty