COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
FEBRUARY 15, 2017
MINUTES

PRESENT: K. Abdulrazak, Acting Chair; H. Hong; U. Jayakumar; M. Molle; K. Neville

GUESTS: J. Li, ASUCR Student Rep.; A. Cantwell, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Institutional Research; E. Engelschall, Director of Undergraduate Admissions; L. Lundgren, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment

ABSENT: P. Sadler, Chair (on leave); D. Volz; J. Sandoval, Ex Officio

Acting Chair Khaleel Abdulrazak called the meeting to order at 10:10AM.

The Chair informed the Committee that Executive Council approved the Committee’s proposed changes to the Admissions by Exception (AxE) Guidelines and that they will now be submitted for final approval at the February 28, 2017 Division Meeting. The Chair shared that Executive Council requested additional data about AxE admissions to document how many files reviewed by the process are for students in athletics or with other special interests. Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment LaRae Lundgren responded that she could provide 3 years of data to facilitate Executive Council’s request. The Chair noted that the AxE guidelines include confusing language regarding the UC minimum requirements and informed the Committee that he would propose updates to the Guidelines to provide clarification at the Committee’s next meeting.

The Committee reviewed a request from the Senate Chair to provide guidance on the nonresident policy that is to be discussed by the UC Academic Council next week. The Committee’s representative to the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) Uma Jayakumar shared that BOARS has discussed the nonresident policy and advocated that nonresident students be admitted to the System under the same requirements for resident students. It was noted that UCR is under the twenty percent threshold for nonresident admissions. The Committee commented that if standards are lowered for nonresident admissions then mechanisms need to be put in place for the nonresident student success. The Committee was concerned that if nonresident admissions increased without consideration for avenues of student success it may counter the Committee’s charge of improving both the quality and success of admitted students. The Chair reported that he will draft a response to the Senate Chair and send it to the Committee for review via email.

The Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education Cindy Larive attended the meeting to present to the Committee an overview of funding awarded to UCR to increase applications, admissions and enrollments from Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) schools and provide academic support services to improve the success of enrolled students. VPUE Larive summarized the funding and application process and informed the Committee that UCR has a year to use the funding. VPUE Larive informed the Committee that funding was allocated for technology for student success that allowed for the development of a dashboard for degree planning. Funding was also allocated for student success to assist with the offering of additional writing courses so that students do not need to wait until they are upper classmen to take the courses and to fund writing tutors to assist students with writing. The Chair questioned what issues are presently hindering LCFF students’ progress at UCR and what is being done to correct the issues. VPUE Larive responded that preparatory English courses have been prioritized to assist students with completing requirements for their freshmen year. The Committee noted that often
LCFF students are hesitant to reach out to campus organizations for help academically and questioned if funds have been allocated to help students build on sense of belonging on campus. VPUE responded that funding was not used to address this issue but noted that this is an important issue that she hopes to assess and build programs for with future funding. VPUE Larive reported that funds from the proposal were additionally used to assist students with preparatory courses in Math, Chemistry and Physics and to bolster the Summer Bridge program, which greatly helps student success. The Committee questioned if any of the funding was put towards the student success of LCFF transfer students. VPUE Larive responded that UCR intended to use funds for transfer student success but the terms of the proposal only allowed for funding of Freshmen student success programs. The VPUE welcomed input from the Committee going forward and informed the Committee of plans for a possible taskforce to address student success issues.

The Committee approved the minutes from the February 1, 2017 meeting.

The Committee continued discussions on transfer admission GPA and the possibility that transfer student success rates could increase with a change to the GPA requirement. The Committee reviewed a set of data that was provided by the Office of Institutional Research and questioned why the graduation rates were low after year 2. The Committee questioned how many additional transfer students could be enrolled if the required GPA was lowered. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research Allison Cantwell informed the Committee that if the GPA requirement was lowered a small increase in transfer admissions could be predicted with the potential for additional enrollment as the GPA decreases. The Committee discussed the weight of Community College courses that articulate with UC courses and the merits of credit awarded for courses based on the status of the school they were taken at. The Chair informed the Committee that the discussion on transfer data would continue at the Committee’s next meeting.

The Committee reviewed and discussed a request for feedback from the Academic Senate Special Committee.

The Committee’s representative to BOARS Uma Jayakumar provided the Committee with an update from the February 3 meeting. BOARS continued discussions on UC Berkeley’s requirement for letters of recommendation and reviewed the results of the study that was conducted on students who submitted a letter of recommendation compared to those students who did not. Professor Jayakumar reported that there was concern from the Affirmative Action Office that underrepresented students were not included in the study. UC President Janet Napolitano has requested that a BOARS subcommittee be established to address her concerns with UC Berkeleys’ proposal for the requirement letters of recommendations. BOARS discussed common core standards and the proposal to increase access to online courses. Professor Jayakumar informed the Committee that there is a push to include the Smarter Balance assessment test in UC Admissions standards as the California State University System has done. Representatives from Smarter Balance are scheduled to present to the Committee at an upcoming BOARS meeting and BOARS will continue the discussion on the merits of utilizing the assessment test in UC’s admission standards.

Director of Undergraduate Admissions Emily Engelschall updated the Committee on the Fall 2017 admissions cycle and informed the committee that transfer applications are currently under review. Director Engelschall informed the Committee that UCR has received an increase in freshmen applications and a decrease in transfer applications.
With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12PM.

Approved: April 11, 2017

Prepared by: Beth Beatty, Committee Analyst