

**Committee on Undergraduate Admissions
Annual Report to the Riverside Division
December 4, 2018**

To be received and placed on file:

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions (UAC) met 15 times during the 2017-2018 academic year.

The Riverside Division of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions Committee was represented on the Systemwide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) by Pete Sadler, Chair of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee. BOARS held 10 meetings during the 2017-2018 academic year. Chair Sadler updated Committee members at each meeting as to the issues discussed at the UC System-level. In addition, Chair Sadler represented the Committee on Executive Council and served as an *ex officio* member of the Committee on Preparatory Education. Chair Sadler also served as the Committee's representative on the Provost's Task Force on Transfer Admissions.

The Director of Undergraduate Admissions Emily Engelschall updated the Committee at each meeting on the Fall 2018 admissions cycle and other issues of note from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, including transfer admissions and campus progress toward the goal of admitting one transfer student for every two admitted California-resident, first-year students. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research Allison Cantwell provided the Committee with information about models for tracking admissions and provided consultation at meetings when data were reviewed.

Actions undertaken by the Committee during the academic year were the following:

- The Committee evaluated the possible pathways to holistic (comprehensive) review of admissions at UCR and discussed potential factors that could be incorporated into the human-read review. Importantly, holistic (comprehensive) review will become mandatory for UCR once the campus offers admission to less than 50% of freshman applicants – whether or not the current machine-read review is inadequate. Director Engelschall visited UC Davis and UC Santa Barbara to observe their holistic review processes and provided an overview of her visits to the Committee. Director Engelschall presented to the Committee several draft designs for holistic review processes. The Committee discussed the proposed models and proceeded to draft a model based on one of the proposed processes. The Committee also discussed potential criteria to be utilized for human-read review. The Committee voted to approve that the proposed new process be introduced as an initial phase where the current Academic Index Score (AIS) would be calculated in parallel with the human-read and as formulated now. The intent is for the AIS to identify applicants near the lower threshold for admission for whom the human read would be most beneficial in the introductory phase. The AIS would stabilize and regulate the transition away from a familiar process, avoiding undesirable impacts. As soon as the human read is satisfactorily integrated that experience could be used to reformulate the AIS as the best summary of the machine-readable measures of academic achievement. The Committee

recommended that the following psycho-social or “non-cognitive” characteristics be considered in the human read: persistence, self-motivation, creativity, conscientiousness, resilience (ability to bounce back and grow), transformed circumstances, methodical habits, “grit”, and navigational skills. Members also recognized that the human read could consider academic achievements that have little or no role in the current AIS formula (SAT II, IB-AP-Hons courses, ELC rank), as a matter of preparation for the intended course of study at UCR. The Committee asked Director Engelschall to review the proposed characteristics over the summer to develop a connection to the information found in the application. The Committee will continue to develop the process during the 18-19 academic year with the goal of presenting the process for Senate review so that the process can be implemented in the 2020-2021 academic year.

- The Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 for Area D of the A-G requirements and was supportive of the proposed change.
- The Committee reviewed the draft UCR Institutional Report to WASC and did not note any concerns with the document that pertained to undergraduate admissions.
- The Committee reviewed the Provost’s proposed change to move the Enrollment Management reporting structure from Student Affairs to the Provost and were supportive of the action.
- The Committee reviewed the proposal to rename the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education to the Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education and were supportive of the proposal.
- The Committee received a presentation from the founder of the Transfer Outreach and Beyond Student Organization at their December 12, 2017 meeting. The presentation provided the Committee with an overview of the organization and a transfer student perspective of the admissions process at UCR.
- The Committee reviewed concerns regarding LPSOE/LSOE appointments and noted that public reaction to the statement that the University is appointing larger numbers of faculty with a Lecturer or Teaching title might impact admissions. The Committee noted concern that the statement could undermine the justification for charging higher fees than intuitions that cannot match UC’s research prowess and, thus, potentially reduce UCR’s applicant pool.
- The Committee reviewed the proposal for a joint Entomology B.S./M.S. five-year combined degree program and voted to support the proposal as it did not impose a burden on the admissions process. The Committee did recommend that the Department consult with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions regarding the implementation date for the program so that the program could be included in outreach campaigns.
- The Committee reviewed proposed and voted to support changes to the admissions requirements for Earth Sciences, Entomology, Physics, Statistics, and Education, Society

and Human Development undergraduate majors as well as the Education minor. The Committee did note concern that GPA threshold statements for transfer admissions are included in the catalog but are subject to change and thus would leave the catalog out of date. The Committee brought this issue to the Provost, Senate Chair, and Committee on Educational Policy's attention.

- The Committee was alerted to the possibility that there had been anomalies in the frequency distribution of SAT Math subject exam scores submitted by applicants to one college several years ago and that this had invalidated the relationship between these scores and students' academic success at UCR. AVC Cantwell analyzed campus records and concluded that no such troubling pattern was observed in recent years.

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