

April 21, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Sheldon Tan, Chair  
  
Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Re: Proposed Exception for Applicants to be considered for Admission by Exception (AxE) without Faculty Special Review Committee (SRC) Evaluation for Fall 2020 Cohort

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions has been informed by the office of Undergraduate Admissions that a pool of approximately 15-20 Fall 2020 applicants who are 1) part of the Admissions Preparation Program (APP) and 2) student-athletes, did not have the opportunity to take the SAT or ACT, a requirement for admission. The inability of students to take these exams is a result of test cancellations beginning in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SAT will not be administered again until August 2020 at the earliest.

Under the current Senate approved [Admission by Exception Guidelines](#), UCR faculty has delegated authority to the office of Undergraduate Admissions to admit several categories of students by exception. However, under the current *Admission by Exception Guidelines* if a student is missing standardized tests, the student is required to be reviewed by the Special Review Committee (SRC) for admission consideration, which is very time consuming and is not intended for such review tasks.

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions discussed this issue at their April 17, 2020 meeting and noted that the cancellation of the tests due to COVID-19 is beyond students' control. The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions voted to support a proposal to allow a standardized test exception for the Fall 2020 cohort of applicants for APP and student-athlete students to be considered for admission under the *Admissions by Exception Guidelines* without SRC Review; therefore, delegating the authority for these admission by exception decisions to the office of Undergraduate Admissions.

The Committee's justification for this proposal is that applicants with otherwise strong records, should not be penalized for their inability to take standardized tests due to COVID-19.

**Definitions of Populations Noted Above**  
**Admissions Preparation Program**

APP is a pipeline program developed in partnership with UCR University Extension. Students admitted into the program are those who are strong academically, however have not yet taken the SAT and/or need additional English language preparation. These students, through the currently approved Senate approved AxE guidelines, are permitted to take the SAT after high-school graduation and are admitted, with test scores, without SRC review.

**Student-Athletes**

There are several student-athletes currently in the pipeline for admission consideration, who have not taken the SAT to date, however are now pursuing admission to UCR.

cc Emily Engelschall, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services and Director of Undergraduate Admissions  
Cherysa Cortez, Director, Academic Senate