

COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS
MARCH 13, 2020
MINUTES

PRESENT: S. Tan, Chair; W. Cleaves; M. Haselhuhn; J. Kelliher; W. Nida; Q. Wang; W. Zhang; E. Engelschall, Ex Officio

GUESTS: S. Heil, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research

Chair Sheldon Tan called the meeting to order at 10:00AM.

The Committee approved the minutes from the February 21, 2020 meeting.

The Chair provided the Committee with an update from the March 6, 2020 meeting of BOARS. BOARS discussed several issues including a proposal to use the Admissions by Exception Guidelines for California resident students only, the validity of the UC application's personal insight questions, and a discussion of how campuses utilize holistic review for admissions.

The Committee reviewed proposed changes to the GSoE's Regulations and did not have any concerns with the proposed changes based on their charge of undergraduate admissions. The Chair will send a response to the Senate Chair noting the Committee's review.

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the transfer admission requirements for the Biochemistry major. Concern was noted that MATH 046 was included in the one year of required calculus courses as the course is not widely taken by transfer students, which would limit their ability to be admitted to the major. The Committee recommended that MATH 009C could be offered as an option to MATH 046 to allow more transfer students the ability to enroll in the major. The Chair will draft the Committee's recommendations in a memo to the Committee on Educational Policy.

Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services and Director of Undergraduate Admissions and Ex Officio member Emily Engelschall provided the Committee with an update on the Fall 2020 admissions cycle. AVC Engelschall informed the Committee that 26,500 students have been admitted for Fall 2020 so far, which is an increase from last year at this time. The Committee discussed concern with the affect COVID-19 will have on international admissions. AVC Engelschall informed the Committee that 3,000 transfer students have been admitted so far and that they will continue to be admitted till April. AVC Engelschall addressed additional COVID-19 implications and informed the Committee that the Office of Undergraduate Admissions has cancelled campus tours through the end of April but is working to develop virtual tours and enrollment presentations online. Additionally, Highlander Day, all small enrollment events at high schools, and high school visits have been cancelled.

The Committee continued discussions on possible AIS changes and holistic review at UCR. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research Scott Heil presented data to the Committee documenting low income applicant admissions. The data documented that lower income students perform better than high income students on the SAT. The Committee requested that the data be updated to include ethnicity and AVC Heil will prepare the information for the Committee's review at their next meeting. The Committee discussed the results and affect at UCR. The Committee discussed a potential model of holistic review for admissions at UCR. AVC Engelschall informed the Committee that she will draft a timeline for work that needs to be completed and milestones that need to be met for a pilot holistic review at study at UCR.

Additionally, AVC Engelschall recommended to the Committee that potential holistic review at UCR be for the entire population rather than a subset of applicants. The Committee reviewed admissions simulation data prepared by AVC Heil and requested that the data be optimized. AVC Engelschall recommended that the Committee decide whether they want to focus on revising the AIS or develop a holistic review model.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 12:00PM.

Approved: April 17, 2020

Prepared by: Beth Beatty, Committee Analyst