

**Committee on Undergraduate Admissions  
Annual Report to the Riverside Division  
December 1, 2020**

**To be received and placed on file:**

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions (UAC) met 10 times during the 2019-2020 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 Sheldon Tan, Chair of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions. BOARS held 9 meetings during the 2019-2020 academic year. Chair Tan updated Committee members at each meeting on the issues discussed at the UC System-level. In addition, Chair Tan represented the Committee on Executive Council and served as an ex officio member of the Committee on Preparatory Education.

The Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services and Director of Undergraduate Admissions Emily Engelschall updated the Committee at each meeting on the Fall 2020 Freshmen admissions cycle and Winter 2020 and 2021 transfer admissions cycles and other issues of note from the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. Assistant Vice Chancellor for Institutional Research Scott Heil provided the Committee with information about models for tracking admissions and provided consultation at meetings when data was reviewed.

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

- The Committee reviewed the Standardized Testing Taskforce Report and agreed in principle with the report's conclusions and recommendations based on the comprehensive admission data and correlation analysis from the report. However, it was noted that the report's conclusion should be considered in the context of holistic review and for the UC campuses that use holistic review as part of their admissions' process. The Committee found the admissions data and analysis included in the report from UCR insightful and valuable for continued discussions to improve UCR's admissions process.
- The Committee reviewed and supported the recommendation from BOARS to eliminate the SAT and ACT Essay Requirement.
- The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the GSoE Regulations and did not have any concerns based on their charge of undergraduate admissions.
- The Committee proposed a set of changes to the Admissions by Exception (AxE) Guidelines in response to the management corrective actions that resulted from Phase One of the UC-wide audit of undergraduate admissions.
- The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the transfer admissions requirements for the Biochemistry undergraduate major and noted concern with the change to require a year of calculus as it includes equivalency to MATH 046, which is not widely taken by transfer students. The Committee recommended that MATH 009C be offered as an option to MATH 046.
- The Committee proposed an exception to the AxE Guidelines to allow a standardized test exception for the Fall 2020 cohort of applicants for the Admissions Preparation Program (APP) students and student athletes to be considered for admission under the AxE Guidelines without SRC review.

The Committee proposed this exception in response to the cancellation of SAT/ACT exams due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was beyond students' control. The Committee's justification for the proposal was that applicants with otherwise strong records, should not be penalized for their inability to take standardized tests due COVID-19.

- The Committee reviewed guidance from the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) on the oversight of student fees beyond tuition and had no concerns with the guidance based on their charge of undergraduate admissions.
- The Committee reviewed the guidance for Divisional flexibility for grading options for Summer 2020 and were supportive of UCR continuing with the same grading options as the campus did for the Spring 2020 Quarter.
- The Committee reviewed the proposal to extend COVID-19 remote learning for the Fall 2020 quarter and had strong concerns with the uncertainties related to remote instruction and the impact the decision would have on admissions for the Fall 2020 quarter in terms of acceptance, yield, and Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) melt rates. The Committee noted that uncertainties regarding the instruction policy for the Fall 2020 quarter may lead to a situation in which many admitted students are not able to make a decision on their attendance until a clear instruction policy is established. The Committee recommended that UCR provide clear guidance on the mode of instruction for Fall 2020 in coordination with the other UC campuses as early as possible so that it is easier for prospective students to make their decision and UCR can establish a plan for Fall 2020 enrollment.
- The Committee reviewed the proposal for a BS/MS joint five-year combined degree program in Statistics and noted several concerns regarding the proposed admissions process for the program. The Committee was concerned that students' SAT scores are proposed to be used for preliminary conditions of admissions as UC is proceeding with test-optional admissions for 2021-2022 academic year and soon test blind admissions for the 2023-2024 academic year. As a result of these changes, the Committee recommended that the program remove the inclusion of the SAT requirement. The Committee also noted concern with the admissions requirement for students to have "sufficient math preparation to enroll in calculus upon arrival" as it lacked specificity for students. The Committee recommended that the statement be revised for clarity. Additionally, the Committee recommended that the proposal be updated to include the expected implementation timeframe for the proposed program.
- The Committee sent memos to the BS+MS programs on campus that include the SAT and ACT as admissions requirements for combined degree programs and recommended that the program's eliminate the standardized test requirement due to the change in admissions policy that will allow test-optional admissions for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- The Committee established a subcommittee of members led by member Wallace Cleaves to modify UCR's Comprehensive Review Model for freshman admission in response to the decision to suspend the standardized test requirement for all applicants until Fall 2024 and to allow a test optional admissions policy for Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 admissions. The subcommittee worked with Institutional Research to develop a revised and optimized model to calculate both test blind and test inclusive Academic Index Score (AIS). The Committee supported the subcommittee's proposal.

- The Committee continued discussions throughout the year on a potential holistic review model of admissions for UCR.

Sheldon Tan, Chair & BOARS Representative

Wallace Cleaves

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James Kelliher

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