March 21, 2023

Susan Cochran, Chair, Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

RE: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulation on Admission

Dear Susan,

The Riverside Executive Council discussed the proposed changes to the subject Senate regulation amendments during our March 13, 2023 meeting and had no additional comments to include with the attached responses from local divisional committees: Educational Policy (CEP), Preparatory Education (CPE), Undergraduate Admissions (UA), and Faculty Executive Committees from the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS FEC) and the School of Education (SOE FEC).

The committees appreciated that the proposed amendments align the Senate Regulations to recent policy actions by the Board of Regents related to standardized testing, particularly the removal of standardized tests from the Comprehensive Review admission criteria, and were generally supportive of the proposed changes.

I draw your attention to a couple of points of clarification:

(1) In “non-resident domestic and international students [...] should compare favorably to California residents”, it is not clear how “favorable comparison” will be assessed in the absence of standardized test scores (CHASS FEC, SOE FEC).

(2) In “applicants for freshman admission do not need to submit standardized test scores”, it is not clear what is the intended guidance (CHASS FEC, SOE FEC, UA). UA offered the language used in the UCOP website to be a helpful reference:

"UC will not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships. If you choose to submit test scores as part of your application, they may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility or for course placement after you enroll."

Furthermore, it was urged that efforts be made to make sure applicants who do not provide the optional test scores do not get disadvantaged in the admission process.
Sincerely yours,

Sang-Hee Lee
Professor of Anthropology and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC:  Monica Lin, Executive Director of the Academic Senate
     Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of UCR Academic Senate Office
To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Lorenzo Mangolini, Chair  
Committee on Educational Policy

RE: Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the proposed conforming amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission at their January 6, 2023 meeting and were supportive of the proposed regulations to address the removal of standardized tests from admissions criteria. The Committee did note that proposed regulation 467 was vague and context was not provided for the proposed change.
March 3, 2023

TO:          Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
             Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM:        John Kim, Chair
             CHASS Executive Committee

RE:          [Systemwide Review] Regulation Change: Systemwide Senate Review of
             Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission

Having reviewed the memo and related documents regarding proposed changes to UC Senate
regulations on undergraduate admissions, we had the following questions and concerns:

● What are the consequences of changing the policy for non-normative students, including
  California residents who did not complete high school (e.g., those who may have earned
  a GED and would have supplemented their undergraduate admissions application with
  standardized test scores) and non-resident applicants (domestic or international)?
  ○ How will admissions staff determine that a non-resident applicant compares
    favorably to a qualified California resident? The current language suggests
    admissions staff are unable to use standardized tests to determine comparability.
  ○ Furthermore, while the proposed added language for non-resident applicants in
    Paragraph 467 provides some guidance for evaluating non-resident applications,
    there is no similar guidance for California resident applicants who may have been
    previously covered by the proposed-for-deletion guidance in Paragraphs 440 and
    452. Do California residents who have a high-school equivalent degree and
    demonstrate college readiness (as measured e.g., by scholastic aptitude tests) have
    no ability to enter the University of California as Freshmen?

● The “Background” section states that “standardized test scores shall not be considered”
  while Chapter 2, Article 1, Paragraph 419 states that “applicants for freshman admission
  do not NEED [emphasis added] to submit standardized test scores.” If standardized test
scores will indeed not be considered in the admissions process, applicants should be counseled not to include them in their applications.

- The “Background” section states that language was included prohibiting “preferential treatment” in the admissions process. This appears to be undermined by Chapter 3, Paragraph 467 stating that “non-resident domestic and international students [...] should compare favorably to California residents.”
February 13, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
    Riverside Division

From: Po-Ning Chen, Chair
      Committee on Preparatory Education

Re: Systemwide Review- Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission.

The Committee on Preparatory Education reviewed the Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission at their February 13, 2023, meeting and were supportive of the proposed regulations.
March 3, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Division Chair of the UCR Division of the Academic Senate & Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

From: Raquel M. Rall, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

Subject: [Systemwide Review] Regulation Change: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission

The members of the SOE Executive Committee reviewed the [Systemwide Review] Regulation Change: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission. Comments were provided at our monthly meeting and via email. Our feedback is below.

While we appreciate that standardized scores are no longer required based on the line, “Applicants for freshman admission do not need to submit standardized test scores for admission to the University,” we do wonder about the potential bias that still exists because those students who potentially have more resources to test prep will still submit their scores. Has the committee thought about the ways in which admissions training might avoid looking at these voluntary scores as a “leg up” over the students who opt to not send scores?

Given the UC’s focus on California and its residents, we pause on this section of the amendments, “Non-resident domestic and international students admitted to a campus should compare favorably to California residents admitted at that campus.” Is there a way to differentiate and still give priority to California residents? For example, if there is an out-of-state student and a California resident with the same record, does any preference go to the California resident? In recent years there has been a push to enroll more out-of-state students because of the higher tuition they pay but we wonder if there should be some great incentive above the tuition break for California residents. We are not sure if the committee has discussed this issue at all but we think it is worth the conversation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

Raquel M. Rall, Ph.D.
Faculty Executive Committee Chair 2022-2025
School of Education
University of California, Riverside
February 3, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
   Riverside Division

From: Peter M. Sadler, Chair
       Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Re: Systemwide Review – Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions reviewed the Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Conforming Amendments to Senate Regulations on Admission and committee members considered how the Admissions Regulations had been aligned with the removal of the SAT/ACT requirement. The committee welcomes the consolidation of several policies into one admissions policy. The primary concern is that the language become simpler and more direct, especially to help an important subset of likely readers; that is, potential applicants, their families and their counselors.

The amended regulation could more clearly state the legitimate uses of SAT/ACT scores that remain and may benefit applicants. The same information would also assist UC academic advisors who must place admitted students into appropriate English and Math courses.

The current statement: “Applicants for freshman admission do not need to submit standardized test scores for admission to the University” is imprecise and open to too many interpretations. Some students may falsely believe that not submitting scores disadvantages them in admission or scholarship consideration. Others may not realize that submitting scores may help them with subsequent placement in course sequences like English and Math.

The UCOP website on admissions requirements is much more informative:

"UC will not consider SAT or ACT test scores when making admissions decisions or awarding scholarships. If you choose to submit test scores as part of your application, they may be used as an alternative method of fulfilling minimum requirements for eligibility or for course placement after you enroll."

If there are reasons not to incorporate a similar explanation into the regulations, the committee recommends at least providing a link to it.

https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/admission-requirements/freshman-requirements/examequirement/#:~:text=Am%20I%20required%20to%20submit,of%20scholarships%20for%20any%20applicants.