




November 3, 2017

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
Riverside Division

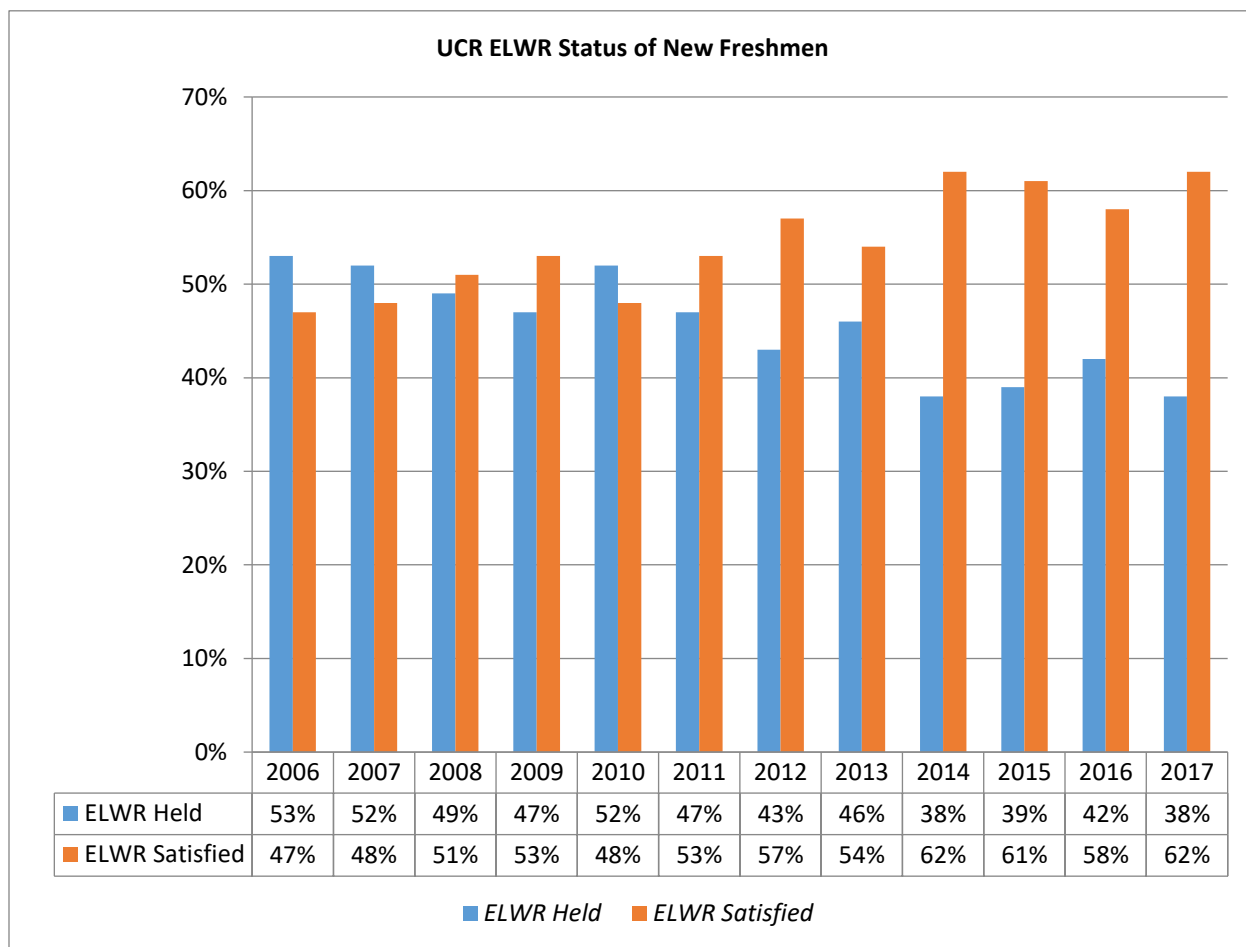
From: Deborah Willis, Chair 
Committee on Preparatory Education

Re: Draft WASC Institutional Report

The Committee on Preparatory Education reviewed the Draft WASC Institutional Report at their October 31, 2018 meeting and was generally supportive of the report, but did note several concerns and recommendations.

We recommend that the section on “Student Success” include information about the contributions of UCR’s preparatory education programs in composition and mathematics to student success. John Briggs, Director of the University Writing Program, proposes that the following paragraph and chart be included in the report:

As a result of the University Writing Program’s outreach efforts and the steadily growing strength of UCR applicants, there has been impressive growth in the portion of UCR’s entering class that has passed the University of California’s Entry-Level Requirement upon matriculation. In the fall of 2016, 58% of UCR’s entering freshmen had satisfied the requirement before registering as full-time students. A large and growing number of freshmen (25% in Fall 2016) came to UCR with AP credits that placed them in advanced portions of the writing program: English 1B or 1C. Almost all those who placed in Entry-Level courses passed the requirement within their first three quarters, 75% in the fall alone. Only seven students were required to leave UCR at the end of the year solely for failing to satisfy the requirement. These figures indicate a steady improvement in new students’ preparation in writing, a likely contributor to the campus’s award-winning improvement in sophomore retention and overall graduation rates.



(This chart is taken from the 2016-2017 Report on the Entry-Level Writing Requirement, included as an Appendix to this memo.) Further information, if desired, is available from Professor Briggs upon request. While our committee did not have time to draft similar text about recent outcomes and/or initiatives of UCR's preparatory math program, we recommend that the WASC Report Committee contact Academic Coordinator Rob Lam for such information and consider it for inclusion in the report.

In addition, Committee members expressed concern about the representation of UCR's general education program, especially in Paragraph 42 (p. 18). This brief paragraph is unlikely to impress WASC. Several members thought specific additions could be made showing that some "attention to assessment" has already been paid, such as by the recent student-initiated review of General Education. Members also thought that learning outcomes of particular courses commonly used to satisfy breadth requirements, such as History 10, 15, and 20 or science courses designed especially for non-majors, could be used to show that some assessment has already been done, even if not "systematic." Another member of the committee, noting the difficulty of any systematic review, found the paragraph "aggressive in tone" and misleadingly hopeful in stating that assessment "could easily be done." In general, we encourage the WASC Report committee to expand and revise this paragraph to address more forcefully how the campus is working to review this issue.

Our committee also noted several smaller areas of concern:

- In paragraph 119, no mention is made of problems associated with the implementation of BANNER. This paragraph perhaps should acknowledge these and go on to mention the current evaluation and testing of new software such as Edunav and the new tools designed to make advising more sophisticated.
- There is a typo in paragraph 10. CHASS should be listed as the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, not College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Another typo was noted in the fourth sentence of paragraph 52, where the word “earned” should be changed to “learned.”
- In paragraph 56, the text does not match the data in the linked documents. The Committee also identified a typo in the last sentence of the paragraph and noted that CHASS should be replaced by BCOE so that the sentence states “participants in BCOE and CNAS.” For the second chart in the report hyperlinked on page 56, SOBA should replace the second occurrence of BCOE on the extreme right.

On the positive side, the committee was very impressed by the readability and clarity of the WASC Report. It is definitely heading in the right direction. We appreciate the opportunity to review it.