Committee on Student Diversity and Academic Development
Berkeley Division, Academic Senate
Annual Report
2007-08

• **Henkin Citation**: The Henkin Citation was awarded to John Matsui, a Lecturer in Integrative Biology, for his work promoting academic excellence and diversity both at the university and nationally.

• **Review of the Athletic Study Center**: The committee was asked to comment on the Review of the Athletic Study Center by the Divisional Council (DIVCO). There was concern expressed in regards to the lack of data included in the review and the subsequent uncertainty about resources allocated to the center vs. resources allocated to at-risk students in the general population of the campus. The committee felt strongly that “no athlete should be provided admission unless he or she was also a serious student”, and that it may benefit athletes to be more integrated into the general student population. Chair Caroline Kane met with the Director of the Athletic Study Center, Derek Van Rhee, and shared the committee’s thoughts.

• **University of California Undergraduate Experience Survey (UCUES)**: Student representative Casey Lilienthal worked with the Office of Student Research to include a newly developed diversity module in UCUES.

• **Building Planning**: The committee submitted a letter to Chair of the Academic Senate William Drummond recommending that a task force be formed to research long-term building planning relative to student education and academic needs.

• **Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) Proposal to Reform UCs Freshmen Eligibility Policy**: In November the committee commented on BOARS Proposal to Reform the UC Eligibility Policy. The policy was enthusiastically endorsed, although it was mentioned that outreach would be needed to educate the public about the changes in eligibility requirements.

• **DIVCO’s Response to BOARS Proposal**: In January, upon learning of DIVCO’s failure to endorse the BOARS Proposal to Reform UCs Freshmen Eligibility Policy the committee wrote a letter reiterating its support for the proposal and stating concern that the proposal was not endorsed. The committee suggested that changes to the current policy could be made in incremental steps and that explicit public education would be needed.

• **Revised BOARS Proposal to Reform UCs Freshmen Eligibility Policy**: In April the committee was asked by DIVCO to comment on a revised version of the BOARS proposal. The committee again stated their strong support for the policy
and commended BOARS for the amount of work they clearly put into the revision and the extensive data and statistics that were included.

• **Proposed UC Undergraduate Mission Statement:** The committee was asked by DIVCO to comment on the proposed undergraduate mission statement. The committee objected to the word “research” in the first sentence of the statement, feeling that this implied a reliance on funding from non-public sources. Confusion was also expressed as to the purpose of the statement, whether it was to be taken as descriptive or prescriptive.

• **Senate Regulation 458:** The committee endorsed the proposed repeal of Senate Regulation 458, feeling that is was not necessary in light of other existing regulations that govern the fulfillment of the University’s History/Social Science admission requirement for all international students.

• **Regents’ Task Force on Diversity:** The committee was asked to comment on the report written by the Regents’ Task Force on Diversity. The committee endorsed the idea of centralized admissions, but felt that all files should be sent to campuses for individual review after being scored for eligibility in the local context. The suggestion was made to offer a ‘one-stop’ phone number for admissions counseling. The committee also stressed the need to provide lots of support to transfer students and suggested allowing them to enroll at Berkeley earlier than usual to allow them to take lower division courses. Concern was also expressed in regards to the extraordinary financial aid packages being offered by private universities and the impact of this on the competitiveness of Berkeley.

• Paula Varsano sat on the Dean’s Task Force on Reading and Composition

• Chair Caroline Kane sat on the Strategic Commission from the Office of Equity and Inclusion.