

2018-19 Annual Report of the Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education

In fulfilling the charge set by the Berkeley Division by-laws, the Committee on Admissions, Enrollment, and Preparatory Education (AEPE) accomplished the following activities during the 2018-19 academic year. Professor Ignacio Navarrete from the Department of Spanish and Portuguese served as chair.

I. Admissions Policies and Review Guidelines

- Freshman Admissions Policy (September 14, 2018)
- Freshman Selection Procedures (September 14, 2018)
- College of Chemistry Freshman Reader Guidelines (November 16, 2018)
- College of Engineering Freshman Reader Guidelines (October 19, 2018)
- Management, Entrepreneurship, & Technology (MET) Freshman Reader Guidelines (November 16, 2018)
- Student-Athlete Admissions Policy (April 12, 2019)
- L&S Lower Division Advanced Standing Referral Guidelines (December 14, 2018)
- L&S Advanced Standing Admission Scoring Guidelines (December 14, 2018)
- L&S Advanced Standing Selection Criteria (December 14, 2018)
- L&S Advanced Standing Tie-Breaking Procedures (December 14, 2018)
- L&S Transfer Quality Control Reviews (December 14, 2018)
- L&S Transfer Admission Appeals Policy (December 14, 2018)

II. Key AEPE Issues

Contributors to Committee Meetings

- David Robinson, Chief Campus Counsel, met with AEPE on 09/14/19 and explained laws and policies on confidentiality with respect to applications and admissions.
- Silvia Marquez, Interim Director of Admissions and Olufemi Ogundele, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Undergraduate Admissions, gave updates on the admissions cycle and related events across the year.
- Greg Dubrow, Director of Analysis, Policy, and Planning, OUA, presented freshman and transfer applicant data during the first part of Fall 2018.
- Susan Pendo, Associate Director, OUA, and Esperanza Bernal, Senior Assistant Director, OUA conducted multiple “norming sessions” across the year.

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- Phil Kaminsky, Executive Associate Dean, College of Engineering met with AEPE on 04/29/19 (working group meeting) to discuss a proposal for admission of Navy Recruit Officer Training Corps (NROTC) scholarship recipients.
- Zachary Bleemer, Director of the UC Cliometric History Project presented to AEPE on 10/19/18 an overview of the implementation and outcomes of the Eligibility in Local Context (ELC) policy.
- Bob Jacobsen, Undergraduate Studies Dean met with AEPE on 12/14/18 to discuss the use of the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) and the process for L&S transfer admissions review.

Committee Member Participation

- Committee members participated in the AEPE Faculty Review of applications.
- Chair Navarrete presented an oral report on the state of admissions policy and preparatory education to the Fall Academic Senate Division meeting.
- Chair Navarrete co-chaired on the Student Athlete Admissions Committee (SAAC).
- Professors Mark Brilliant (History) and Jill Berrick (Social Welfare) represented AEPE on the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) and reported on that committee's meetings throughout the year. Chair Navarrete served as an alternate.
- Professor Brandi Catanese (Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies) represented AEPE on the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE).

III. AEPE review of Academic Senate and Campus Policies and Issues

- Report of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee
Comments forwarded to Divisional Council on 09/18/18.
- Proposed revisions to Berkeley Senate Bylaw 31
Proposal forwarded to Divisional Council on 12/14/18.
- Proposed UC Transfer Admission Guarantee
Comments forwarded to Divisional Council on 02/27/19.
- Comments on Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 636.E
Comments forwarded to Divisional Council on 03/20/19.

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Revised comments forwarded to Divisional Council on 04/12/19.

- Proposed revisions to Guiding Principles on Notification of Changes to major Preparation for Admission Selection Requirements for California Community College Transfer Students.

Informal comments provided to Professor Jill Berrick on 04/12/19.

- Comments on ASUC Proposal for Increased Representation on Academic Senate Committees.

Comments forwarded to Divisional Council on 03/20/19.

IV. Unfinished Business and Future Action Items

- Proposal for admission of Navy Recruit Officer Training Corps Scholarship recipients.
- Topics for the Summer Study focused on 1) transfer admissions, 2) admissions policies in support of becoming a Hispanic Student Institution (HSI), and 3) quantifying the effectiveness of admissions policies in relation to academic progress.

See Appendix A for AEPE summary of the student athlete admissions policy.

APPENDIX A: STUDENT ATHLETIC ADMISSIONS SUMMARY

About four years ago the Academic Senate adopted a new Student Athlete Admissions policy, that set a glide path towards the goal of 80% of rosters meeting the academic criteria of “UC Eligibility”: roughly, a 3.0 high school GPA, and combined scores of 1000 in the SATs. These criteria are set by the Office of the President every year, and they define the top 12.5% of California high school graduates. Despite popular notions of grade inflation, the criteria are very stable.

We are now at a point in the glide path, in which 80% of each team’s admits must meet this criteria; because of the glide path, full rosters are not yet required to be at the 80%. At the end of 2018-19, every team had met its 80% goal, and most teams had entering cohorts that were 100% UC-eligible. Amongst all the sports, there were only 14 new students matriculating who did not meet that standard.

The job of evaluating student athletes who do not meet the UC eligibility criteria falls to the Student Athlete Admissions Committee, or SAAC, which is co-chaired by the Chair of AEPE and the Director of University Admissions. Although SAAC meetings are attended by representatives of Intercollegiate Athletics and of the Office of Admissions, all voting members are from the Academic Senate.

In 2018-19, SAAC considered 28 cases. Of these, 11 were referred back to the Admissions Office, and ultimately admitted. These are primarily students from out-of-state, who did not have the opportunity to complete the full A-G distribution requirements that are mandatory in California; or foreign students whose GPAs did not easily translate. These 11 do not count against the 20% maximum allowed by the policy, a figure known for historical reasons as the “carrying capacity.”

As already noted, 14 students who were not UC eligible were admitted by SAAC, and they do count against the carrying capacity. Another aspect of SAAC’s work is to scrutinize these applications, and make sure they are students who can thrive at Cal academically and as athletes. In some cases, the Committee will impose conditions, such as a minimum GPA in the final term of senior year, or even in Berkeley’s summer sessions, before the student is allowed to matriculate in the fall. The coaches have internalized the new policy, and so the applicants that have come before the Committee, almost all are only just short of the admissions criteria, and have shown evidence through their essays and interviews of the desire and commitment to do what is necessary to graduate.

Eleven plus 14 is 25, that leaves three other cases. Two were admitted by SAAC against the carrying capacity, but they chose not to accept Cal’s offer of admission. That leaves one application that was turned down; interestingly, not because of inferior academic scores, but

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because of inadequate knowledge of English. SAAC suggested that if the student improved her or his English, we would be happy to reconsider.

You will want to know about the admissions audit that has been in the news. Although the internal auditors are requesting some new procedures and safeguards, our system is a model of thoroughness in vetting, and maintenance of both privacy and transparency. Being on SAAC used to be a major time commitment, but now we get fewer and fewer cases every year.

Summary of SAAC cases in 2018-19

- 11 Deemed admissible through the Office of University Admissions, admitted, and do not count against "Carrying Capacity"
- 14 Deemed admissible through the SAAC process, admitted, and do count against "Carrying Capacity"
- 2 Admitted by SAAC, chose not to attend Berkeley, do not count against "Carrying Capacity"
- 1 Turned down by SAAC because of insufficient English.
- 28 Total cases reviewed by SAAC