

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE (AFAC)
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2025-2026

The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC) advises the Merced Division and the administration on policy and practices related to admissions, financial aid, access, enrollment, and outreach. This includes determining the criteria for undergraduate admissions and setting admission's policy.

In AY 2025-2026, AFAC held a total of 4 regularly scheduled meetings in person and 4 via zoom, as well as conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's Senate Bylaw II.IV.2.

Areas of focus this year are described below.

Campus Review Items

AFAC reviewed and commented on the following proposals:

- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree in Computer Science (12/19)
- Hybrid BA-BS to PharmD Program Proposal (2/27)
- B.S. Degree Program in Artificial Intelligence (4/1)
- Proposal for Master in Public Health Program (4/6)

Systemwide Review Items

AFAC reviewed and commented on the following proposals:

- Presidential Policy for the UC's Use of Online Program Management Companies (9/18)
- UCAD Interim Report and Recommendations (9/22)
- Systemwide Senate Bylaw 140 - Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity (10/17)
- Presidential Policy on Education Loan Practices (11/17)
- Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw 192 and Senate Regulations 636 & 761 (4/1)

Other Correspondence

AFAC reviewed and acted on the following items:

- Reviewed and approved 7 Admission by Exception Application Reports and 10 Exceptional Case reviews.
- Approved changes to the following transfer selection criteria:
 - School of Natural Sciences (SNS) GPA requirements (9/23)
 - Chemistry and Biochemistry (11/17)
 - Business Administration, Public Health, and Liberal Studies (12/19)
 - Organic Chemistry (2/11)
- Offered comments on the Proposal to Launch a Three-Year SoE Pilot Transfer Admissions Program (10/24).
- Approved the Proposal to Launch a Three-Year SoE Pilot Transfer Admissions Program (11/24).
- Offered comments on the proposed Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate Certificate Programs (10/24 and 2/24).

- Approved the Regents Scholarship Proposal (1/20).
- Transmitted a memo to CRE regarding proposed amendments to its Bylaws to extend the chair and vice chair terms to two years, with the possibility of a one-year reappointment (1/22).
- Proposed amendments to its bylaws to extend the chair and vice chair's term from one year to two years, with the possibility of reappointment following the initial appointment (1/28).
- Approved the Pathway to Degree Scholarship Proposal (2/4).
- AFAC approved a request from Admissions Director Dustin Noji to designate the AFAC Chair as the faculty representative responsible for reviewing and approving Summer 2026 A by E reports (6/10).

Guest Consultations

AFAC was joined by the following guests:

- SSHA Associate Dean Anne Zanzucchi and Executive Director of Degree Completion Catherine Koehler to discuss the proposed Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate Certificate Programs (10/13).

AFAC members also received regular updates from Admissions Director Noji, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management Hagg, and Director of Financial Aid & Scholarships Nardello on a range of topics, including financial aid, federal funding, transfer admissions, enrollment, recruitment, scholarship programs, yield activities, and more.

Respectfully submitted,

AFAC Members:

Joel Spencer, Chair, School of Engineering, BOARS Representative
 Sapana Doshi, Vice Chair, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
 Christina Baker, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
 Chih-Chun Chien, School of Natural Sciences
 Kevin Dawson, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
 Siddaiah Yarra, School of Engineering

Ex-Officio (non-voting):

Scott K. Hagg, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management
 Dustin Noji, Director, Admissions and Outreach
 Heather Nardello, Deputy Director, Financial Aid & Scholarships
 Josiah Beharry, Graduate Student Representative
 Julian Curiale, ASUCM Representative

Staff Support:

Melanie Snyder, Senate Senior Analyst, Academic Senate