

[Admissions and Financial Aid Committee \(AFAC\)](#)

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 31, 2022
9:00am - 9:55am
Library 360

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Eaton – 9:00am – 9:05am

Chair Eaton welcomed new and returning members, and members introduced themselves.

II. Chair’s Report – Chair Eaton – 9:05am – 9:08am

- A. Update on the August 21 and 22 Governance Retreat including student debt reduction goals.

Chair Eaton attended the Shared Governance Retreat remotely. He presented a PowerPoint presentation, which he will discuss later in today’s meeting (item VI.). He reported that his presentation received positive feedback and support from the faculty and administration. He also noted that the EVC/Provost and Chancellor discussed plans for creating new majors on campus.

- B. Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) Representation

Chair Eaton informed members that he will be attending several BOARS meetings throughout the semester and will provide regular updates to committee members.

III. Consent Calendar – Chair Eaton - 9:08am – 9:10am

- A. The Agenda

Action:

- The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. AFAC Resources – Chair Eaton and Melanie Snyder – 9:10am – 9:15am

- A. [Senate website](#)
- B. [AFAC website](#) and [Box site](#)
- C. [Meeting Schedule](#)
- D. [Senate Policies and Procedures](#)
- E. [Divisional Bylaws and Regulations](#)
- F. [Systemwide Bylaws and Regulations](#)
- G. [Principles to Guide the Practice of Executive Session](#)
- H. [Consultation guidelines](#)

I. Distributing work on AFAC

All campus and systemwide review items will be posted on AFAC Box folder and on the Senate website, here: <https://senate.ucmerced.edu/review-items>. Review items will be assigned to one AFAC reviewer before each scheduled meeting.

Chair Eaton and the AFAC Analyst discussed the several resources available to committee members, most of which can be found on the [Academic Senate website](#) or in our shared [AFAC box folder](#). Chair Eaton also informed members that AFAC will be required to comment on several review items throughout the semester, and voting members will alternate leading each review. Each member will be required to review and provide comments on at least one lead review item this semester.

V. Report from the Office of Admissions – Dustin Noji and Ruben Lubers – 9:15am – 9:25am**A. Fall 2022 Admission by Exception (A by E) Review****Video Tutorial for Extreme and Unusual Cases**

<https://ucmerced.box.com/s/0wkavwsgzl8tqkf8age5ftb3z5n6gqll>

A few additional important notes:

- Per our conflict of interest policy and the UC admissions audit, if committee members finds that they are reviewing a file where there may be a conflict of interest or perceived conflict of interest, which includes, an applicant who is a family member, an acquaintance, or sibling or child of a faculty or staff member they know and interact with, they should refer that file to another member of the AFAC committee.
- Please note, that is it prohibited to consider a student’s familial or other personal relationships with university staff or faculty in an admissions decision.
- Committee members should not disclose an individual applicant’s decision without permission from the Director of Admissions and report any attempt to influence an admissions decision regardless of source to the Director of Admissions or the Locally Designated Official via the whistleblower hotline.

Office of Admissions Director Dustin Noji discussed the Admission by Exception (A by E) report review and approval process. A by E is a policy that allows the enrollment of students who do not meet the A-G eligibility requirements for enrollment. A-G courses are college preparation classes offered in the state of California that students must take in order to meet UC eligibility requirements. Students must complete a certain number of years of each of the A-G requirements to be eligible and are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 within those courses. A by E provides the Office of Admissions with a means to evaluate certain students who they feel have the potential to be successful, who demonstrate special talent or commitment to an academic subject or activity. A by E is only for California residents,

and The Office of Admissions can only admit up to 6% of incoming enrolled students, 4% of which can be enrolled by disadvantage. AFAC is an important body in the A by E review process.

The A by E policy is available [here](#).

B. [Review and approval of A by E Report](#)

The report includes cases that were found during the verification process.

Approval of these cases will help the Admissions Office process the students' admissions and enroll them for the Fall semester.

Action:

- AFAC unanimously approved the A by E report.
- AFAC Analyst will notify Director Noji (completed 8/31)

VI. [AFAC Goals and Priorities for AY 22-23](#) – Chair Eaton - 9:25am – 9:50am

Guest President of Associated Students of UC Merced (ASUCM) Corbin Farias is joining today's discussion. Members discuss the committee's goals for this academic year and propose additional goals.

Chair Eaton discussed AFAC's goals and priorities for this academic year, with one of the main goals focused on eliminating student debt.

In his presentation, Chair Eaton described a new consensus for eliminating student debt, the reason for this being the new consensus, and AFAC Debt-free UC Initiatives. Chair Eaton's full PowerPoint presentation is available [here](#).

It is important to note that there are current discussions regarding ways to increase financial aid rewards in order to achieve this debt-free pathway. One of UC Merced's strategic initiatives is to sustain and improve affordability, access, and debt reduction efforts. Chair Eaton also shared statistics regarding the percentage of students who are debt free across schools, as well as the percentage that undergraduate students borrow relative to household income. He also shared data for those who still owe after ten years by race and by school, noting the racial inequalities.

Members discussed President Biden's Student Loan Forgiveness Program. About 48% of UC Merced students borrow aid each semester, and this new program will allow most of them forgiveness. The Income Driven Repayment Program has also been radically reformed. There are several options to help many of UC Merced's students in eliminating their institutional debt.

VII. Any Other Business – 9:50am – 9:55am

No other business was discussed.

VIII. Informational Items will be regularly uploaded on the “Informational Items”

AFAC Box Folder [here](#).

A. [Enrollment Updates](#)

B. [AFAC AY 21-22 Annual Report](#)

Meeting adjourned at 9:55am.

Attest: Chair Eaton.