

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC)

**Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 23, 2022
9:00am – 10:15am**

I. Introductions – Name, Affiliation and Pronouns – All - 9:00am – 9:05am

Members introduced themselves and shared their pronouns.

II. Chair’s Report – Chair Eaton – 9:05am – 9:15am

A. Recording committee meetings

Chair Eaton explained that it is standard Senate practice to record open session committee meetings. Executive sessions are not recorded, and the AFAC analyst can pause the recording during an open session upon a member’s request. Recordings are only available to the AFAC Analyst and are deleted after the meeting minutes are approved (an approximate 30-day period). Recordings are also automatically deleted from the Analyst’s Zoom account after 60 days.

B. September 6 and 20 Divisional Council Meetings

- The Shared Governance Retreat was held in person this year. The Senate was invited to share their committee’s priorities for AY 22-23; however, there was not much time dedicated to discussing them. The Retreat was managed by the administration, and there was not much engagement from the Senate with the development of the agenda.
- Discussions were held regarding the importance of creating new majors to increase enrollment numbers. This raised several concerns about resources, governance structure, creation of new departments to support the new majors, etc.
- A discussion was held regarding funding and compensation for departments. The main concern is that a large number of course releases are granted to faculty, and departments are not given funds to cover them, which makes it difficult to hire additional lectures.

C. September 12 meeting with UGC Chair Moyes, Director Noji, and member Doshi to discuss AP African American Studies course

Member Doshi reported that an AP African American Studies course offered at high schools will be piloted this year. Universities have been asked to adopt clear credit and placement policies for qualifying AP Exam scores for AP African American Studies to offer college credit to students who complete this course at

their high school. Director Noji noted that the proposal will be discussed at BOARS and submitted for Senate review in Spring 2023. Students will be able to begin taking the exam in Spring 2023 but will not receive credit for the exam. Students can take the AP African American History course this semester, and since it will not be approved until Spring 2023, students will be allowed to receive credit retroactively towards A-G classes or college preparation courses for admissions this Fall.

III. Consent Calendar – Chair Eaton - 9:15am – 9:20am

- A. The Agenda
- B. [August 31 meeting minutes](#)

Action:

- The agenda was approved as presented.
- The August 31 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- AFAC Analyst will update the Senate website accordingly (completed 9/23).

IV. Conducting Review of Campus and Systemwide Review Items – Chair Eaton – 9:20am – 9:35am

Throughout the academic year, AFAC members will be invited to review several campus and systemwide review items, many of which AFAC will be a lead committee reviewer for. One member of AFAC will be asked to lead the review of each item and share their comments with the committee for further discussion. Members are to review these items through the lens of admissions and financial aid and note anything concerning or of importance.

AFAC Archives are available in our shared box folder [here](#).

A. [Systemwide Review Item – Proposed New Senate Regulation 479 \(Cal-GETC\)](#)

Senate Regulation 479 was prepared by the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) in response to California State Assembly Bill 928. The state legislature deemed the requirements for transfer from a California Community College (CCC) to a California State University (CSU) or UC campus to be “unnecessarily complex, confusing and difficult for community college students to navigate”. AB 928 tasks the three segments (CCC, CSU, UC) with establishing a single set of transfer requirements between CSU and UC campuses, without increasing the 34-unit ceiling.

The Cal-GETC proposal aims to meet this mandate by making several changes to the existing Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC). The changes and rationale are outlined in the June 15, 2022 ICAS memo provided to AFAC.

Lead Reviewer: Mike Cleary

Lead Reviewer's comments are available [here](#).

Requested Action: AFAC to discuss lead reviewer's comments. If members do not have any additional comments, voting members vote to endorse the memo.

Member Cleary provided a summary of his review of the New Senate Regulation 479 (Cal-GETC), noting his primary focus on the difference between the former IGETC (Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum) and the new Cal-GETC.

Chair Eaton noted that the segments are the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges. Member Cleary stated that Senate Regulation 479 (Cal-GETC) was prepared by the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates, which is comprised of representatives from each of the segments, both faculty administrators and students. He reported that the California State Legislature passed a bill stating that the transfer process is too cumbersome and needs to be unified across the segments; however, the new Senate Regulation 479 does not appear less complicated, and he wonders why Cal-GETC is limiting the types of courses that can be completed after transferring. Member Cleary also noted that the Cal-GETC proposal appears less lengthy compared to IGETC and wonders if the Senate will receive a more detailed proposal in the future. Voting members voted to endorse the [draft memo](#).

Chair Eaton explained that AFAC will be invited to lead the review of certain campus and systemwide review items throughout the academic year. One or two AFAC members will be solicited to lead the review of items in which AFAC is a lead reviewer. The lead reviewers' draft memos will be circulated to AFAC voting members for review prior to transmittal to the Senate Chair. All memos will be transmitted to Senate Chair LiWang. AFAC's comments on systemwide review items will be shared with the Academic Council Chair after DivCo's review.

Action:

- AFAC unanimously approved the draft memo.
- AFAC analyst will transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair (completed 9/26).

V. Discussion of AFAC Priorities – Chair Eaton – 9:35am – 9:55am

Chair Eaton discussed AFAC's AY 22-23 priorities during AFAC's August 31, 2022 meeting. Today, Chair Eaton would like to solicit input from committee members on the importance of each of the following items, ranking them in order of highest to lesser importance. This will provide Chair Eaton guidance for the structure of future AFAC meetings.

1. Cancel institutional student debts owed to UCM by students and not covered by

- Biden executive action.
2. Help UCM employees and students use expanded public service loan forgiveness and executive action.
 3. Secure ongoing funds from UC system and the state to continue debt-free enrollment growth.
 4. Assure UC Merced implementation and UC-wide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) implementation of a new ethnic studies A-H admissions requirement for high school and transfer students.
 5. Partner with the Degree Completion Program on financial aid solutions for re-enrolling stop-out students, including those previously barred from enrollment by institutional debts.

Requested Action: Members complete the poll to rank the five items listed above in order of highest to lesser importance for AFAC to address this academic year.

Chair Eaton explained the five AFAC priorities listed above in detail, and several members noted the importance of the deadline for certain items. Voting members and student representative Palancares completed a poll to rank AFAC's five priorities in order of highest importance to lesser importance. The poll results are available [here](#). Chair Eaton reassured members that this ranking does not mean that some items will not be addressed, but rather it will help him organize future AFAC meeting agendas.

Chair Eaton also provided an update on President Biden's Loan Forgiveness Program, noting that the US Department of Education will accept applications after the October 31, 2022 deadline if employees have completed the PSLF help tool. Director Radney reported that there are current discussions at UCOP regarding partial forgiveness of DREAM loans, which are loans available to undocumented students because they are not eligible for Federal student loans and Federal financial aid.

A member wondered whether they could provide additional priorities that are not included on the list. Chair Eaton responded that members are welcome to raise any items during Any Other Business during AFAC meetings or send Chair Eaton an email. Members also shared their individual interests for each of the AFAC priorities.

Action:

- Chair Eaton invited members to email him with recommendations for additional priorities or to provide comments on the existing list of priorities.
- Chair Eaton invited members to email him if they are interested in serving as a lead or co-lead for the committee on one of the five priority issues.
- Chair Eaton will email an update to members on time-sensitive issues and developments with #UCStudentDebt Challenge campaign to enroll employees in Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

VI. Institutional Student Debts – Chair Eaton – 9:55am – 10:10am

On April 15, 2022, AFAC transmitted a [memo](#) to the Senate Chair with a request that

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Divisional Council endorse recommendations to UC Merced leadership for reducing adverse student impacts and administrative burdens associated with the new Academic Activity Policy. Today, Chair Eaton will further discuss the policy and institutional student debts.

Chair Eaton shared a PowerPoint about institutional student debt, available [here](#). He reported that institutional student debt is debt owed by students and are not Federal student loans that are repaid to the U.S. Department of Education. Institutional debt affects hundreds of thousands of students in California and involve housing, health, and other fees that students are charged when they are dropped for non-payment. Being dropped for non-payment means that the student registered for courses, but they did not pay some of their fees resulting in being dropped after the first week of class. UC Merced must return prorated Pell Grant and Federal loan funds to the Department of Education if a student is dropped for non-payment or does not participate in class beyond the 60% point in the semester.

Chair Eaton reported that institutional debts at least doubled in three years at UC Merced and now impact about 5% of UC Merced undergraduates annually. Because aid was given to the students as cash dispersals, they become a net loss for UC Merced, which is harmful to UC Merced fiscally. Chair Eaton mentioned ongoing conversations with the Controller's Office, with Director Radney and his team, and at Divisional Council. Chair Eaton asked if any AFAC members were interested in working on this issue this year.

Action:

- Chair Eaton will contact members Yarra and Spencer regarding their interest in student institutional debts.

VII. Any Other Business – 10:10am – 10:15am

Member Doshi announced an open public session on Friday, October 7, 2022, from 2:00pm – 3:00pm to discuss the important role of UC faculty in supporting the implementation of the Ethnic Studies requirement in K-12 schools by passing the Area H requirement.

VIII. Informational Items will be regularly uploaded on the “Informational Items” AFAC Box Folder [here](#).