

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

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 6, 2023**  
**10:30am – 12:00pm**

- I. Consent Calendar – Chair Eaton – 10:30am – 10:35am**
- A. The Agenda
  - B. [March 16 Meeting Minutes](#)

**Action:**

- The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

- II. Chair’s Report – Chair Eaton – 10:35am – 10:40am**
- A. April 3 DivCo Meeting

Chair Eaton was unable to attend the April 3 DivCo meeting.

Chair Eaton asked members if they plan to continue serving on AFAC in AY 23-24. Several members agreed to continue their service while some have other priorities and will have to step down from the committee.

- III. BIO Selection Criteria – Chair Eaton – 10:40am – 10:50am**

Biological Sciences Department Chair Gordon Bennett submitted a request for updated selection criteria and course articulation for the BIO major, effective Fall 2025, available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members discuss the requested changes to BIO selection criteria. If there are no concerns, voting members vote to endorse the changes.

Chair Eaton summarized the Biological Sciences Department’s memo, linked above, requesting changes to BIO major selection criteria and course articulation from community colleges. The changes would provide students with the preparation to succeed in their major courses, as well as preparation from their transfer classes before receiving transfer admissions. The BIO faculty would also like to decrease the number of students who transfer out of the BIO major.

A member believed this request to be non-controversial and noted that it is mainly a renaming of the courses; the content will change slightly but courses will still articulate with existing community college courses.

Associate Director of Admissions Lubers mentioned that because the new criteria will

be effective starting Fall 2025, transfer students who transfer into the BIO major under the old criteria may need the faculty's help in reviewing their files. Associate Director Lubers will consult with AFAC in such instances.

**Action:**

- The requested changes to BIO selection criteria were approved.
- AFAC Analyst will notify BIO Department Chair Bennett.

**IV. Campus Review Items – 10:50am – 11:30am**

Institutional Research & Reporting Manager Gary Lowe provided IRDS data and analysis for majors and minors, available [here](#).

**A. [SNS B.S in Data Science and Computing](#) – Mike Cleary**

The proposal was distributed to the Chairs of Senate Committees, the SSHA Executive Committee, and the SoE Executive Committee. The policy governing the review and approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs is available [here](#).

**Lead Reviewer:** Mike Cleary

Lead reviewer's draft memo is available [here](#).

**Requested Action:** Members discuss the proposal and lead reviewer's assessment. If no additional comments, members vote to endorse the draft memo.

**Deadline for comments to the Senate Chair:** Friday, April 18, 2023.

Member Cleary summarized his draft memo noting the proposal to be well-written and that the proposers did a great job in justifying why it would be a popular major at UC Merced – student demand, great career opportunities, etc.

Member Cleary noted two general weaknesses:

1. The proposal fails to address the potential overlap with the proposed SoE B.A. in Data Science and Analytics - how the proposers envision students making an informed decision between the two majors, the process for switching between the two majors, projected enrollment numbers for each of the two majors.
2. The proposal fails to address areas of mutual support and collaboration - options to cross-list courses, a plan for transfer between the two Data Science majors, potential extra-curricular programs to increase enrollment in Data Science majors, and shared financial support for a data science technician and JupyterHub platform.

Associate Director of Admissions Lubers pointed out that the proposal includes transfer selection criteria; however, lacks the Transfer Admissions Guarantee (TAG) criteria. He recommended adding language in AFAC's memo to suggest that proposers include TAG criteria if they would like the new major to be included in the TAG program.

Chair Eaton recommended including in the draft memo a note regarding new faculty lines consistent with that in previous AFAC memos for new majors/minor proposals.

**Action:**

- Members approved the draft memo with the addition of points raised during the meeting regarding selection criteria, TAG criteria, and faculty lines.
- Member Cleary will implement members' recommended revisions, and AFAC Analyst will transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair.

B. **SSHA B.A. Degree and Minor in Environmental Humanities** – Siddaiah Yarra

The proposal was distributed to the Chairs of Senate Committees, the SNS Executive Committee, and the SoE Executive Committee. The policy governing the review and approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs is available [here](#).

**Lead Reviewer:** Siddaiah Yarra

Lead reviewer's draft memo is forthcoming.

**Requested Action:** Members discuss the proposal and lead reviewer's assessment. If no additional comments, members vote to endorse the draft memo.

**Deadline for comments to the Senate Chair:** Friday, April 18, 2023.

Member Yarra summarized his draft memo highlighting the following main concerns:

1. The proposal lacks a letter of support from the School of Engineering.
2. The proposed major will not need any additional faculty or staff.
3. Whether proposers are planning to propose new courses and cross-list with ENG courses.
4. The difficulties related to obtaining accreditation without EH courses.

Associate Director of Admissions Lubers pointed out that this proposal also does not include TAG criteria. He recommended adding language in AFAC's memo to suggest that proposers include TAG criteria if they would like this new major to be included in the TAG program.

**Action:**

- Member Yarra will draft a memo with his comments, along with points discussed during the meeting regarding selection criteria and TAG criteria.
- Members will be invited to review the draft memo prior to transmittal to the Senate Chair.

C. **SSHA B.S. Degree in Public Health** – Charlie Eaton

The proposal was distributed to the Chairs of Senate Committees, the SNS Executive Committee, and the SoE Executive Committee. The policy governing

the review and approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs is available [here](#).

**Lead Reviewer:** Charlie Eaton

Lead reviewer's draft memo is forthcoming.

**Requested Action:** Members discuss the proposal and lead reviewer's assessment. If no additional comments, members vote to endorse the draft memo.

**Deadline for comments to the Senate Chair:** Friday, April 18, 2023.

**Action:**

- Chair Eaton will draft a memo and members will be invited to review it prior to transmittal to the Senate Chair.

D. [SSHA Cognitive & Information Sciences Honors Program](#) – Charlie Eaton

The proposal was distributed to the Chairs of Senate Committees, the SNS Executive Committee, and the SoE Executive Committee. The policy governing the review and approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs is available [here](#).

**Lead Reviewer:** Charlie Eaton

Lead reviewer's draft memo is forthcoming.

**Requested Action:** Members discuss the proposal and lead reviewer's assessment. If no additional comments, members vote to endorse the draft memo.

**Deadline for comments to the Senate Chair:** Friday, April 18, 2023.

**Action:**

- Chair Eaton will draft a memo and members will be invited to review it prior to transmittal to the Senate Chair.

V. **Consultation with SNS Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener – 11:30am – 11:50am**

A. [Update on Medical Education](#)

Dean Dumont summarized her PowerPoint presentation, linked above, highlighting the following points:

- The program consists of a baccalaureate and admissions pathway. Students are admitted into UCSF with provisional acceptance into School of Medicine after four years.
- Students complete their pre-clinical work at UCSF main campus and then matriculate to UCSF Fresno for their clinical training. SJV + PRIME is a new iteration, where 15 students will be enrolled in a B.S/M.D. pathway starting at UC Merced.
- Students who are admitted must be from the Central Valley, have a minimum GPA of 3.6, must meet UC admissions requirements, and must enroll in one of the qualifying majors.

- In November, UC Merced received over 1,200 applicants. Using certain criteria, such as the applicants' link to the San Joaquin Valley, GPA, etc., Admissions narrowed this number down to 15 students. Those 15 students will join UC Merced this Fall with provisional acceptance into UCSF School of Medicine at the end of their four years of undergraduate education.
- Expansion of admittances will recur over time, and UC Merced will eventually have its own independent Medical School.
- The required courses of the baccalaureate workstream are not all science-related, but rather related to how to be a good, thoughtful person and a good community member.
- The SJV+ Prime Workstream will consult with AFAC should any of the students selected for provisional acceptance not meet UC Merced admission criteria.

**Action:**

- Chair Eaton will consult with Member Spencer regarding his continuity on AFAC in AY 23-24, whether he would like to lead the SJV + PRIME item, and how often he would prefer to receive updates from SNS Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener.
- AFAC Analyst will update Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener.
- AFAC Analyst will obtain financial aid offer details from Dr. Vener, including details on need-based aid.
- AFAC Analyst will obtain data on racial and demographic composition of 15 students offered admissions from Admissions staff.

**VI. Any Other Business – 11:50am – 12:00pm**

Chair Eaton summarized member Doshi's [memo](#) to BOARS regarding the A-G Ethnic Studies Requirement.

**Action:**

- Members voted to approve the draft memo (5 in favor, 1 member not present during time of vote).
- AFAC Analyst will include the committees' vote in the memo, and Chair Eaton will share the memo at the next BOARS and DivCo meetings.

**VII. Informational Items** will be regularly uploaded on the "Informational Items" AFAC Box Folder [here](#).