

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

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 4, 2023
10:30am – 11:45am

- I. Consent Calendar – Chair Eaton – 10:30am – 10:35am**
- A. The Agenda
 - B. [April 6 Meeting Minutes](#)

Action:

- The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

II. [Algebra 2 Admissions Requirement](#) – Chair Eaton – 10:35am – 10:40am

There is strong momentum building across several other UC campuses, including Berkeley, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz, to keep Algebra 2 as a core requirement for UC admission, and the School of Engineering strongly advocates that it remains a core requirement for admission to UC-system universities. The SoE Executive Committee asks AFAC to advocate for this cause at BOARS.

Requested Action: Members to engage in discussion of the requested Algebra 2 admissions requirement. Members to determine next steps.

Approximately two years ago, the Board of Admissions with Relations to Schools (BOARS) approved a revision to UC Merced’s admission requirement to complete Algebra instead of Algebra 2. At the time, UC Merced suggested a Data Science course as an alternative to Algebra 2; however, there have been recent concerns regarding this change. The memo from the School of Engineering, linked above, states that Data Science courses should not be considered as an alternative to Algebra 2 because Algebra 2 is viewed as a foundational course for success at UC Merced.

Assistant Director of Admissions Lubers noted that Algebra 2 remains a requirement for admission. Data Science does not replace Algebra 2 but is rather offered as an alternative option for satisfying the requirement.

Chair Eaton explained that a group of experts will be assigned by BOARS to review the recent concerns and will provide recommendations. He will provide a summary of today’s discussion at the May 5 BOARS meeting.

Action:

- AFAC Analyst will share a BOARS document re: [RESOLUTION REGARDING EXPECTATIONS FOR UC/CSU AREA C COLLEGE PREPARATION STANDARDS](#) with SoE Executive Committee Chair Rusu,

and Chair Eaton will provide him with an update following the May 5 BOARS meeting.

III. Admissions Update – Dustin Noji and Ruben Lubers - 10:40am – 10:50am

A. [May 2023 A by E Report](#)

B. A by E Review policy and verification

Students must submit their official transcripts to the Admissions Office at the end of each Spring semester. In some instances, a student's transcript will reveal that they did not pass a class during the academic year, and the Admissions Office must determine whether to continue their admissions because they still meet the academic criteria or to rescind their admission. The Admissions Office is seeking AFAC's approval to revise policy language to bypass AFAC's approval on these decisions during the Summer because oftentimes faculty are unavailable after the end of the semester. The committee will still be required to review A by E reports during the Summer for late applicants; the aforementioned cases are for students who were admitted via the regular admission process who withdrew or failed a course.

Action:

- AFAC approved the May 2023 A by E Report (4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 3 members not present during voting).
- AFAC Analyst will notify Director Noji.
- AFAC approved (4 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, 3 members not present during voting) an exception to the [Reporting on Admission by Exception and Special Talent policy](#) to bypass AFAC's approval for cases over the summer in which a student's final transcripts reveal that they did not pass a class and Admissions must make a decision via the A by E process to either continue their admissions because they still meet the academic criteria for their admission, or to rescind their admission.
- Director Noji revised the UCM Guidelines for Admission by Exception, available [here](#) (changes highlighted in yellow).
- AFAC Analyst will notify Director Noji.

IV. Systemwide Review Items – All – 10:50am – 10:55am

A. [AMP 210-Review and Appraisal Committees](#)

The proposed changes include the addition of mentoring to criteria and assessment, revisions to evaluation and evidence of teaching and mentoring effectiveness, contributions to diversity, equity, inclusion, and equal opportunity for policy-covered librarians, minor additions of numbering for clarity, and technical revisions for grammatical consistency.

Requested Action: Decide if AFAC wants to opine. If AFAC decides to opine, identify a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer will send their comments to AFAC Analyst by Monday, May 22, 2023.

Action:

- AFAC decided not to opine on this item.
- AFAC Analyst will notify the Senate Chair (completed 5/5).

B. [APM 710, Leaves of Absence/Sick Leave/Medical Leave](#)

The proposed changes are largely technical revisions to add a designated person for family and medical leave due to changes to the California Family Rights Act (CFRA), effective January 1, 2023. The proposed substantive change to **710-20 Use of Proposed Sick Leave** allows academic appointees to use accrued sick leave for medical appointments or illness of a designated person.

Requested Action: Decide if AFAC wants to opine. If AFAC decides to opine, identify a lead reviewer. Lead reviewer will send their comments to AFAC Analyst by Monday, May 22, 2023.

Action:

- AFAC decided not to opine on this item.
- AFAC Analyst will notify the Senate Chair (completed 5/5).

V. **Follow-up on Student Academic Activity – Chair Eaton and Member Yarra – 10:55am – 11:10am**

Chair Eaton, member Yarra, Director Radney, Provost Camfield, Chancellor's Advisor Zatz, VCSA Nies, and the new Chief Information Officer Nick Dugan met on April 18 to discuss student academic activity.

Requested Action: Today, Chair Eaton and member Yarra will provide an update on their discussion and ask for a volunteer to work with CIO staff and Financial Aid staff on any CatCourse modifications to improve academic activity tracking. Discuss with financial aid staff when/how to set up twice-yearly reports on institutional debt occurrences to track progress.

Chair Eaton summarized the April 18 discussion noting that participants agreed that an AFAC member would meet with Financial Deputy Officer Heather Nardello and a member from Chief Information Officer Nick Dugan's office over the Summer to collaborate on ways to improve CatCourses to help better capture students' academic activity and reduce stress on staff and faculty.

Chair Eaton also recommended consulting with Chief Financial Officer Kurt Schnier regarding conducting regular reports to track students' progress and to identify unexpected issues that may arise when tracking their academic activity.

Action:

- AFAC Analyst will email Chief Information Officer (CIO) Nick Dugan to ask if someone from his office can schedule a meeting for him, Chair Eaton, Financial

Aid Director Radney, and Financial Aid Deputy Director Nardello to discuss the coordination of a work group for student academic activity tracking.

VI. Chair's Report – Chair Eaton – 11:10am – 11:25am

- A. April 17 and May 1 DivCo Meetings – financial challenges and shared governance.

Chair Eaton reported on DivCo members' financial and shared governance challenges in regard to balance reporting for research grants, covering costs of increased GSR and postdoctoral scholar compensation, and challenges with Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) budgets.

Further discussions regarding the Gallo School of Management pre-proposal took place. Divisional Council formally voted to not endorse the pre-proposal. The campus has hired the Penn Cannon Group as the mediator who has previously worked with the Chancellor and other UC entities.

- B. Ethnic studies admissions requirement

Divisional Council endorsed AFAC's memo regarding support of an ethnic studies course included as Area H in the A-G admission requirements. BOARS continues to work on policy implementation.

- C. [Institutional Student Debt](#)

Chair Eaton met with Senate Chair LiWang, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (VCSA) Nies, and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Schnier to discuss AFAC's institutional debt policy recommendations. CFO Schnier provided an update, linked above, on his staff's work to implement the recommendations, along with several follow-up questions. Chair Eaton is scheduled to meet with CFO Schnier and his staff on Friday, May 12, 2023, to review the implementation progress. Overall, Chair Eaton is pleased with the current progress; he shared only one concern regarding not having received a response about third-party debt collection. Chair Eaton will keep members apprised of next steps.

- D. [Public Service Loan Forgiveness](#) (PSLF)

Chair Eaton shared a report from UCOP, linked above, which shows that 11,300 individuals across the UC System applied for and received PSLF. The TownHall that took place in Fall 2022 and involvement with the US Department of Education helped contribute to the large number of applicants. The US Department of Education also accepted employment verification following the October 31, 2022 deadline, which revealed that 3,500 applications were submitted in November and December who would not have been able to do so without the policy clarification.

Director Radney noted that in order to qualify for PSLF, one must have ten years of qualifying payments toward their loans and work for an eligible employer. Even if one has not worked and paid on their loans for ten full years, they can submit their application, and once ten years of qualifying payments is reached they can apply for loan forgiveness.

E. Debt Free UC

AFAC did not spend a significant amount of time addressing this item this year, but Chair Eaton will review the topic over the Summer and the committee will determine whether they would like to revisit the matter next year.

F. Review of new majors and enrollment growth

AFAC reviewed several proposals for new majors over the past year. Chair Eaton is pleased with the committee's memos focusing on the enrollment management implications of the majors, i.e., the number of new enrollments that the major would generate, new required faculty lines to support the new major, whether enough students would enroll in the new major, etc.

Chair Eaton recommended a joint meeting next academic year with the Chair of Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) and/or the Chair of Undergraduate Council to further discuss new major proposals and areas of focus.

VII. AFAC Business Wrap-up – Chair Eaton – 11:25am – 11:40am

Conclude the semester and discuss ways for improving AFAC business next year.

Chair Eaton thanked committee members, the Admissions Office, and the Financial Aid Office for their hard work this academic year.

VIII. Any Other Business – 11:40am – 11:45am

No new business was discussed.

IX. Executive Session – Voting Members Only - 11:45am – 12:00pm

No meeting minutes were recorded during the executive session.

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