

Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC)

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 7, 2023
10:30am – 11:30am
ADMIN 245

Documents available in [box](#)
[AFAC Duties](#)

Pursuant to call, the Admissions and Financial Aid Committee met at 10:30am on December 7, 2023. Chair Eaton presiding.

I. Consent Calendar – Chair Eaton – 10:30am – 10:35am

- A. The Agenda
- B. [November 16 Meeting Minutes](#)

Action:

- The agenda and November 16 meeting minutes were approved as presented.
- AFAC Analyst will update the Senate website accordingly.

II. Chair’s Report – Chair Eaton – 10:35am – 10:50am

- A. November 30 DivCo Meeting

Chancellor Muñoz and Interim EVC/Provost Zatz attended the meeting and discussed the contributions made towards the creation of new majors. The Chancellor also reported that applications were up by 8% over the past year and numbers continue to rise in all residency levels.

The Financial Management and Reporting Joint Task Force has convened and is charged with improving financial management and reporting associated with research support. The expectation is for the Task Force to develop a plan with actionable short-term and long-term goals with benchmarks by which progress will be measured.

DivCo unanimously endorsed AFAC’s memo regarding the need for BOARS to advance the process on Ethnic Studies as an admission requirement.

- B. December 1 BOARS Meeting

Concerns that were raised regarding the Ethnic Studies admission requirement have been considered. Academic Council Chair Steintrager expressed his agreement with the concerns, and BOARS will no longer be considering any option to endorse an Ethnic Studies admission *recommendation* instead of a *requirement*.

Additionally, BOARS will transmit a memo to the Academic Council describing the deliberation, and then Academic Council will decide whether to send the Area H Senate regulation amendment out in another 90-day review period where it could be distributed to all UC campuses for comment. AFAC members discussed the importance of continuing to advocate for Ethnic Studies as a requirement as it proceeds through the review process.

III. Consultation with Admissions Director Noji – 10:50am – 11:10am

- A. [Proposal for Adoption of Current Major Selection Criteria as TAG Criteria](#)
Current TAG Criteria is available [here](#).

On November 16, 2023, The Office of Admissions' memo, linked above, was shared with AFAC members. The Office of Admissions requested that AFAC members review the memo, consult with their department faculty, and be prepared to vote on the proposal.

Requested Action: Members vote to approve the adoption of current major selection criteria as TAG criteria.

Director Noji reported on TAG criteria and how it has become outdated with the increase in number of majors across campus. Moreover, some majors do not currently have TAG criteria. To simplify updating TAG criteria, the proposal recommends using the current major selection criteria as TAG criteria.

Members discussed whether there could be any possible negative implications for majors that do not currently have TAG criteria. It was suggested that AFAC could reach out to the departments that do not currently have TAG criteria for their input.

Members noted that it would be beneficial to approve the policy in order to have a default policy in place in the event that a major is created without TAG criteria. It would also be valuable in cases where selection criteria is updated to include additional courses, but the TAG is not updated to include the same courses.

Action:

- Members voted unanimously to adopt current major selection criteria as TAG criteria.
- AFAC Analyst will notify Director Noji.
- Director Noji will send an email to the chairs of the five departments who currently do not have TAG criteria letting them know that AFAC approved using current major selection criteria as TAG criteria and asking if they would like to include their own TAG criteria.
- AFAC will consult with UGC regarding revision to the current [Academic Degree Programs: UGC's Review/Approval Policy](#) to include a requirement for proposers to include TAG criteria when proposing new degree programs.

IV. Campus Review Items – All – 11:10am – 11:25am**A. [SoE Aerospace B.S. Degree Program Proposal](#)**

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

Lead Reviewer: Jason Lee

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

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

Deadline for comments to the Senate Chair: Friday, December 8, 2023.

Member Lee summarized his assessment noting the following main points:

- Not many UC sister campuses have an Aerospace B.S. program, which would make UC Merced more attractive to applicants.
- The proposal asks for minimal resources.
- A possible note from AFAC could be that there is no explicit mention of TA support.

Members discussed whether the proposal mentioned potential local industry partnerships and whether it would be beneficial to add language into the memo regarding UC Merced's regional proximity to aerospace employers.

Chair Eaton proposed inviting Interim EVC/P Zatz and other relevant senior leadership to a future meeting to discuss the process to approve new major proposals.

Action:

- Members voted unanimously to approve the draft memo with the addition of a recommendation to describe UC Merced's proximity to aerospace employers in the region and any potential opportunities for developing industry affiliate programs with aerospace enterprises.
- AFAC Analyst will transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair.

V. Any Other Business – 11:25am – 11:30pm

Director Radney reported on his retirement. His position has been advertised nationally, with interviews scheduled to take place in December and January.

Director Radney also reported on challenges that the Financial Aid Office is experiencing in regards to the FAFSA Simplification Act and kindly asked that AFAC approach the Financial Aid Office cordially, as they will be extremely short staffed and

navigating a new complex process.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

Attest: Charlie Eaton, AFAC Chair