

**ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE (AFAC)**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**AY 2020-2021**

**To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:**

In AY 2020-2021, AFAC held a total of 8 regularly scheduled meetings via zoom and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's Senate Bylaw [II.IV.2.](#)

Areas of focus this year are described below.

***Proposal for a Writing Studies Major***

On March 12, 2021, AFAC provided comments on the Proposal for a Writing Studies Major regarding the analysis of impact on Undergraduate admissions/enrollment.

***Proposal for a Minor in Materials Science and Engineering***

On April 9, 2021, AFAC discussed and provided several recommendations on the Proposal for a Minor in Materials Science and Engineering.

***Debt Free UC Pilot Proposal***

AFAC member Eaton drafted the Debt Free UC Pilot Proposal. AFAC members reviewed and discussed the Debt Free UC Pilot Proposal at their April 9, 2021 meeting. The memo was sent to Divisional Council for further discussion and consideration at their April 16 meeting.

***Draft Strategic Plan (2021-2031)***

AFAC reviewed the Draft Strategic Plan (2021-2031) via email and offered comments.

**Campus Review Items**

AFAC reviewed and commented on:

- Academic Pages in Admissions Publication Drafts (9/16/20).
- Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department Name Change (10/16/20).
- Request for Revision to AFAC Bylaws (4/15/21).
- Literature and Languages Department Name Change (5/3/21).

**Systemwide Review Items**

AFAC reviewed and commented on:

- Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 630 (9/18/20).

- SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccination Policy (5/17/21).

### **Other Correspondence**

#### AFAC took actions on the following items:

- Reviewed and approved 6 Admission by Exception Application Reports.
- Reviewed and approved 28 Admission by Exception Extreme and Unusual Cases.
- Transmitted to UGC Chair Hibbing and GC Chair Hratchian, a memo from Professor Sarah Kurtz related to the establishment of Senate policies for the review of dual B.S./M.S. degrees (9/22/20).
- Transmitted a memo re: First Year Selection to Admissions Director Dustin Noji regarding selection criteria for standardized testing (10/16/20).
- Reviewed and provided comments on the Undergraduate Admissions Guidelines for Admission by Exception request from Admissions Director Dustin Noji (11/12/20).
- Distributed a Proposal to Change Admissions Evaluation Process to School Executive Committee Chairs (12/14/20).
- Distributed to HCRES/SSHA Curriculum Chair Torres-Rouff and SSHA Executive Committee Chair Amussen, for review and comments, a proposal for an Intersegmental GE Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) in Ethnic Studies (12/14/20).
- Transmitted to Divisional Council, in anticipation of the May 12-13 Board of Regents Meeting, a memo prepared by member Charlie Eaton re: Debt Free UC Pilot Proposal (4/9/21).
- Transmitted a request to CRE regarding revision to the AFAC Bylaws, changing the term of service of the AFAC Chair from two years to one year (4/15/21).

Respectfully submitted:

#### ***AFAC members:***

Abbas Ghassemi (SoE), Chair, BOARS representative  
 Erik Menke (SNS), Vice Chair  
 Charlie Eaton (SSHA)  
 Mariaelena Gonzalez (SSHA)

#### ***Ex officio, non-voting member:***

Dustin Noji, Director, Admissions and Outreach  
 Jill Orcutt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management  
 Ron Radney, Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships

#### ***Staff:***

Fatima Paul  
 Melanie Snyder