

**ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID COMMITTEE (AFAC)**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**AY 2023-2024**

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

In AY 2023 - 2024, AFAC held a total of 7 regularly scheduled meetings via zoom, as well as 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.

***Campus Review Items***

AFAC reviewed and commented on the following proposals for new majors and minors:

- Biology B.A. Degree Program (11/16)
- Aerospace B.S. Degree Program (12/8)
- Data Science and Policy Analysis Minor (2/16)
- Psychology B.S. Degree Program & Amendments to B.A. Degree Program (2/16)
- Biochemistry B.S. Degree Program (3/15)
- MIST B.A. Degree Program (3/15)
- Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology B.S. Degree Program (3/22)
- Science, Technology, and Ethics B.S. Degree Program (3/22)
- Communications and Media B.A. Degree Program (4/23)
- Neuroscience B.A., B.S., and Minor Degree Program (5/3)

AFAC focused on how the new majors/minors would increase enrollment numbers at UC Merced and the allocation of Advancing Campus Evolution (ACE) funding from the Chancellor and EVC/Provost for the addition of new resourcing of faculty and staff lines.

***Systemwide Review Items***

AFAC reviewed and commented on:

- UC Regents Policy on Use of Administrative Websites (2/13)
- SR 424 Area H (4/5)
- Report of the University of California Systemwide Advisory Work Group on Students with Disabilities (4/8)

***Other Correspondence***

AFAC took the following actions on the following items:

- Endorsed transfer requirements for the B.A. in Data Science and Analytics and the B.S. and Minor in Data Science and Computing (9/19).
- Proposed revisions to the membership of the AFAC Bylaws (10/30).
- Endorsed Fall 2024 Admissions Selection Criteria and proposed revisions to A by E Admissions Criteria (11/16).
- Transmitted a memo to the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) on November 20, 2023, conveying AFAC's continuous support for making Area H Ethnic Studies an admission requirement (11/30).
- Transmitted a support memo to Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer (VCCIO) Nick Dugan and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (VCSA) Charles Nies requesting \$4,000 in funding

- from the EVC/Provost to update CatCourses to better track students' academic activity (1/30).
- Endorsed TAG criteria for the Civil Engineering Major (2/16).
  - Endorsed updates to the Biology B.A. and B.S. transfer selection criteria (2/16).
  - Endorsed recommended revisions from CRE to the AFAC Bylaws (2/16).
  - Offered comments on the Five-Year Planning Perspectives 2024-2029 (5/3).

***Guest Consultations***

AFAC was joined by the following guests:

- VCSA Nies and University Registrar Webb attended the September 19, 2023 AFAC meeting to discuss policy changes to Dropped for Non-Payment (DFNP) and how it impacted students' institutional debts.
- Senior Associate Dean and Vice Provost for the Division of Undergraduate Education James Zimmerman joined the October 19, 2023 AFAC meeting to discuss the Enrollment Management Working Group and enrollment targets for transfer students at UC Merced.
- CFO Kurt Schnier and VCSA Nies attended the March 22, 2024 meeting to discuss students' institutional debts.

Respectfully submitted,

***AFAC members:***

Charlie Eaton (SSHA), Chair, BOARS Representative

Mike Cleary (SNS), Vice-Chair

Sapana Doshi (SSHA)

Mariaelena Gonzalez (SSHA)

Yang Lor (SSHA)

Joel Spencer (SoE)

Siddaiah Yarra (SoE)

***Ex officio, non-voting members:***

Dustin Noji, Director, Admissions and Outreach

Ruben Lubers, Assistant Director, Admissions and Outreach

Jill Orcutt, Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management

Ron Radney, Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships

***Staff:***

Melanie Snyder, Senate Senior Analyst