Diversity Council  
University of California, San Diego  
Thursday, August 13, 2009  
10 am-2 pm  
Huerta/Vera Cruz Room, Student Center

Meeting Notes


Meeting called to order at 10:15 by chair Continetti

I. Welcome and Introductions by Bob Continetti, Chair
Bob Continetti opened with a welcoming remark to new faces at the meeting. He started with the budget cut issues and their impact, noting that in spite of these challenges, UCSD remains an awesome institution. He recounted how he attended meeting in Beijing of deans and chairs of chemistry programs in the US and China and learned that in spite of the worldwide economic crisis, leading institutes of higher education in China have been the beneficiaries of 10% yearly budget increases over the past decade. He noted that our state leaders seem to have lost sight of the central importance of education to the future of California.

II. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes
There are minor revisions for the paragraph on the Staff at Work Survey. Since the discussion and recommendations on the Staff at Work Survey are not well documented, Glynna Davis will submit the procedure that will be used for disseminating information on diversity that is obtained from the Staff at Work Survey to the VC units. The Council needs to identify the new questions that will be added to the survey. Since this is a time sensitive requirement, new questions should be submitted by December in order to be incorporated into the 2010 survey. Paula Doss will review the Health Sciences opinion survey since 4% of the UCSD family are in Health and Sciences area. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the suggested revisions (Otis Watson moved and Adela Garcia second).

III. Informational Presentation: Admissions
Assistant Vice Chancellor for Admissions Mae Brown distributed materials and gave a thorough presentation on undergraduate admission policies. She provided materials for the fundamental guidelines and guiding principles of our undergraduate admission policies at UCSD and in the UC system in general. The Admissions Office follows the Comprehensive Review Policy that was implemented in 2002 under the guidance of the systemwide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) and the Admissions Committee of the UCSD Academic Senate. Ms. Brown described the careful review of applications that is conducted by both internal (staff) in the admissions office and paid and volunteer external readers. Readers start to read the first week of November and follow operational procedures for academic reviews. All undergraduate
files are read by both internal and external reviewers (and by Admissions staff if there is a split decision), ensuring that the comprehensive review guidelines are followed and that each application is given thorough consideration.

Considerable discussion followed concerning the goal of increasing the diversity of the undergraduate student body as well as making recommendations to the Chancellor so UCSD will be a more desirable place for all undergraduates (increasing our yield of admitted students). It was noted that currently UCSD does not guarantee admission for Eligibility in the Local Context (ELC) students; however 86% of those applicants are currently admitted to UCSD. Discussions were broad ranging, touching on efforts in faculty recruitment; the ways of attracting students to UCSD, having high school fairs, college nights and community college outreach programs. Paula Doss suggested that Admissions Office be represented at Community Outreach Programs organized by Rosemarie Mirano. Sandra Daley suggested that student and staff groups could be trained to go to the Los Angeles area to help recruit high school and community college students, and do more high school visits due to the fact that some highly competitive students are admitted to UCSD, but choose to go to other schools. Bill Hodgkiss recommended incorporating students and staff groups to convince and inspire students to accept UCSD admission offer. Mae Brown suggested later hours for the campus tour program and the need to make the program as visible as possible. Tricia Bertram-Gallant recommended the use of social networking tools such as Facebook for presentation as a resource for admission and to facilitate more conversation with prospective students. Mae Brown announced that the Admissions Office has hired one staff person to further develop the admissions web portal. Members of the Black Student Union noted that they are ready to be trained and ready to help out, and that effort is already beginning through UCSD’s Student Promoted Access Center for Education and Service (SPACES). Mae Brown will meet with members of the Black Student Union to ensure that the students are able to support recruitment and yield activities in undergraduate admissions.

The broad discussions touched on some preliminary measures to be taken into consideration for improvement of the recruitment and yield of underrepresented students. More current underrepresented students should become involved thru the use of social networking on campus, giving UCSD a greater sense of community for all groups. The temporary staff member hired by the Admissions Office will start interviewing students regarding UCSD’s sense of community issues. As noted above, the Black Student Union is willing to participate in UCSD’s recruitment activities and development of social networking. These approaches should be designed for all groups and everybody should be involved, ultimately benefitting the entire campus.

IV. Diversity Council Committee Reports:
Owing to the length of the admissions discussion, insufficient time remained for detailed reports from the Committees of the Diversity Council. It was noted in general that the chairs of committees shall report on the status of their work. Major recommendations should come from the committees and be submitted to Sandra Daley.

1. Disabilities Issues Committee: Per Michelle, the Disabilities Issues Committee is developing goals and setting priorities for the coming year. They are conducting their
work electronically so that progress can continue even when meetings are difficult to schedule.

2. Data & Climate Committee: Glynda Davis stated that the Diversity Accountability Framework has been submitted to UCOP. Those interested in creating a climate committee should meet with Glynda to review the climate issues and get a handout/book on the topic.

3. Recruitment and Yield (RAY) Committee/Undergrads: Plan to meet with Southwestern College (Angelica Suarez) to exchange data on transfer students and outline next steps. There is a need to improve the faculty-to-faculty contact between the UC San Diego and Southwestern community college in order to facilitate student transfer to UCSD. Mr. Baza, the current chair of the Board of Overseers, is interested in developing faculty-faculty contacts in order to strengthen UCSD’s relationship with San Diego community colleges.

4. November 21, 2009 Summit for San Diego Community Leaders: This summit will respond to the need to further involve leaders and alumni in the Latino and African American communities in the recruitment, admission and yield efforts. Community leaders can help to increase the applicant pool, participate as readers in the admissions process, and support the students that enroll at UC San Diego. At the Summit, UC San Diego will inform participants about the admissions process and provide outcome data on enrollment statistics for the last five-ten years. Will encourage participants to identify strategies that may support campus recruitment and retention efforts. The summit will be held at the Price Center East. Ron Baza and Jennifer Adams-Brooks, two UC San Diego Board of Overseers members, will invite people personally. Recommendations from the summit will be submitted to the Chancellor’s Office.

VII. Next Steps/Action Items

- Priorities for 2009/10
- Implementation of recommendations to Chancellor
- Diversity Accountability framework report
- Items for October 22, 2009 Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.
Erlinda Sanchez, recorder