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ACADEMIC COUNCIL STANDARDIZED TESTING TASK FORCE

Re: Charge to the Standardized Testing Task Force

Dear Task Force members,

President Napolitano wrote to Academic Senate Chair Shane White in July 2018 requesting that the Academic Senate “examine the current use of standardized testing for UC admission; review the testing principles developed in 2002 and revised in 2010; and determine whether any changes in admission testing policies or practices are necessary to ensure that the University continues to use standardized tests in the appropriate way.” In my Academic Senate Chair’s remarks to the Board of Regents in September 2018, I accepted President Napolitano’s request on behalf of the Academic Council. In order to fulfil this request I am forming the Standardized Testing Task Force.

In charging the Task Force, it is being asked to approach the issues analytically, without prejudice or presupposition, in evaluating whether the University and its students are best served by our current testing practices, a modification of our current practices, another testing approach altogether, or perhaps even no testing at all. The goal of the Task Force is to develop recommendations for implementation in UC undergraduate admissions, which are set as per Regents’ By-laws and Standing Orders by the Academic Senate.

Within this context, the Task Force is being asked to focus on the following questions:

- How well do the UC current standardized testing practices assess entering high school students for UC readiness?
- How well do the UC current standardized practices predict student success in the context of our holistic, comprehensive review process?
- Should UC testing practices be improved, changed or eliminated?
- Do standardized testing assessments fairly promote diversity and opportunity for students applying to UC?
- Does UC’s use of standardized tests enhance or detract from UC academic eligibility for high school students?

The scope of the Task Force is the full range of standardized tests used by UC for undergraduate admissions. Focus will likely be directed to SAT and ACT tests, but the Task Force may, at its discretion, also examine the efficacy of the AWPE and TOEFL examinations. Testing for graduate and professional school admissions is out of scope for the Task Force.

In order to understand the range of views on the value of standardized testing for university admissions, the task force is encouraged to explore the extensive research on standardized testing and admissions, evaluating it in the context of UC data and experience, and to interview experts on standardized testing, within UC and from other institutions, vested state and national stakeholders (Smarter Balanced, The College Board, etc), and others deemed to be appropriate to assist the Task Force pursue its charge. In undertaking its investigations, the Task Force will be supported by Academic Senate staff, and will have access to UC Academic Affairs' Office of Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP), as well as other sources for data.

The membership of the Task Force is:

Prof. Henry Sánchez (UCSF, Pathology), Chair
Eva Baker (UCLA, Graduate School of Education)
Julian Betts (UCSD, Economics)
Li Cai (UCLA, Graduate School of Education)
Eddie Comeaux (UCR, Graduate School of Education, BOARS chair)
Darlene Francis (UCB, Public Health, UCOPE chair)
Patricia Gandara (UCLA, Graduate School of Education)
Jonathan Glater (UCI, Law)
James Griesemer (UCD, Philosophy)
Andrea Hasenstaub (UCSF, Integrative Neuroscience)
George Johnson (UCB, Mechanical Engineering)
Mona Lynch (UCI, Criminology, Law & Society)
Andrew Maul (UCSB, Education)
Yolanda Moses (UCR, Anthropology)
Wendy Rummerfield (UCI, Statistics, Student representative)
Kit Tellez (UCSC, Education)
Haim Weizman (UCSD, Chemistry & Biochemistry)
Anne Zanzucchi (UCM, Writing Studies, UCEP chair)

Sincerely,



Robert C. May, Chair
Academic Council