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L. ID S. SPENCE
EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

ATTACHMENT TO AS-2484-00/AA

October 20, 1999

To: Gene Dinielli, Chair
Academic Senate of the CSU

From: David S. Spence *David S.*

Subject: Proposed Title 5 Revisions to Admission Criteria

The Admission Advisory Council recommended three changes in Title 5 related to the admission of undergraduate applicants. I am requesting that the Academic Senate review the proposed changes and provide any comments to Allison Jones they think would be useful to inform the discussion. I have enclosed a copy of the briefing document that describes the proposed changes.

I look forward to receiving comments from the Senate as soon as possible. Questions regarding the proposed changes may be directed to Mr. Allison G. Jones, Senior Director, Access and Retention at (562) 951-4744.

DSS/ncs

c: Charles B. Reed

Enclosure

PROPOSED TITLE 5 REVISIONS ADMISSION CRITERIA

First-time Freshman Grade Point Average

Currently, the high school grade point average used to determine freshman admission eligibility is calculated on the basis of all courses completed in the final three years of high school excluding courses in physical education and military science. The Admission Advisory Council recommends modification to the trustee policy on grade point average (GPA) calculation to include only those grades earned in approved college preparatory courses taken during the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades of high school.

This adjustment would serve California students and high school counselors by having CSU and UC use the same methodology to calculate a high school GPA for purposes of determining admission eligibility. The CSU and UC would continue to establish different eligibility indices using the commonly derived grade point averages to establish the recommended upper one-third for CSU admission eligibility and the upper one-eighth for UC eligibility.

Changing the grade point average calculation may require CSU to revise the admission eligibility index to ensure that CSU admission standards identify the upper one-third of the high school graduating class. This is a technical rather than a substantive adjustment that will enable CSU to recalibrate the eligibility index to identify the upper one-third of graduating high school seniors based upon the new GPA calculation in the fifteen units of college preparatory courses.

Discussion

The quality of high school preparation is a strong indicator of potential success in college study. A high school grade point average that is calculated solely on grades earned in college preparatory courses is a better indicator of the level of academic preparation of first-time freshmen beginning university study. A grade of "C" or better is required in each of the fifteen units of college preparatory courses, but the current grade point average calculation may include non-academic courses such as word processing, work experience, or life skills.

The revised grade point average calculation may require additional students to present a test score (SAT or ACT) to demonstrate eligibility. This would occur when the current calculation of the grade point average based upon academic and non-academic courses yields a GPA of 3.0 or higher, while the new grade point average calculated only upon academic courses is lower than 3.0. It is anticipated that most students will have sufficiently high test scores to establish eligibility under either method of grade point average calculation.

Required Modification to Title 5

Title 5, the *California Code of Regulations*, Section 40601(f), changes are proposed to implement this change.

§40601. Particular Terms

(f) The term "eligibility index" means that number derived from a weighted combination of the grade point average for courses taken in the comprehensive pattern of college preparatory subjects during the final three years of high school ~~or of the grade point average for the final three years of high school excluding the final year or final term thereof, and in any case excluding courses in physical education and military science,~~ and the score on either the American College Test or the Scholastic Aptitude Test pursuant to Section 40752 or Section 40802; such weighing of grade point averages and test scores shall be determined and adjusted by the chancellor on the basis of the probability of academic success in the California State University.

Proposed Implementation Date

Subject to CSU Board of Trustees approval of the revisions to Title 5 this provision will be effective for those students seeking admission as first-time freshmen for the fall 2003 term.

First-time Freshman Definition

High school students are encouraged to pursue a rigorous academic high school program to prepare for enrollment in the CSU. Increasing numbers of students are enrolling in college courses concurrently with high school studies, and many complete preparatory courses during the summer preceding university matriculation. With successful completion of college course credits and advanced placement credit for such programs as the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP), it is not unusual for students to begin university study with as much as a term or year of college-level credit.

Currently Title 5, the *California Code of Regulations* defines a "first-time freshman" as any applicant who has no units attempted at any college. As a result of this a number of students who have completed college credits have been classified as lower division transfers, and this results in the lowest priority for admission to oversubscribed campuses and programs. To prevent this unintended consequence for gifted and motivated students the definition needs to be modified to define as a "first-time freshman" any applicant who has not matriculated at any college since high school graduation.

Discussion

An increasing number of high school students are acquiring a significant number of college credits through such as the following programs:

- Advanced Placement examinations through the College Board;
- Concurrent enrollment in community college or four year universities;
- Participation in articulated 2+2 programs between the high school and community colleges or CSU campuses; or
- Early-start programs for gifted students.

Under existing policy and practice, high school students who earn 12 or more semester units in college-level courses concurrent with high school studies are defined as lower division transfer students and are subject to enrollment limitations that may be applied to lower division transfers. Current practice allows campuses to consider as a first-time freshman any student who has completed fewer than 12 semester units in college courses while still enrolled in high school, during the summer between high school graduation and fall matriculation at CSU, or during the spring term when the student is a mid-year high school graduate. Continued use of the current first-time freshman definition could jeopardize access to programs or campuses with enrollment limitations for highly motivated students who complete college courses concurrent with high school study; lower division transfer (freshman and sophomore) students have the lowest priority for access to CSU except for nonresident students. If the revised definition of "first-time freshman" is adopted, students who matriculate at a community college between mid-year high school graduation and fall CSU matriculation would continue to be considered first-time freshmen.

Required Modification to Title 5

Title 5, the *California Code of Regulations*, Section 40601(h), changes are proposed to implement this change.

ξ40601. Particular Terms

(h) The term “first-time freshman” means any applicant who has no units attempted at any college after graduation from high school except for credit attempted through the summer immediately following high school graduation.

Proposed Implementation Date

Subject to CSU Board of Trustees approval of the revisions to Title 5, this provision will be effective for those students seeking admission as first-time freshmen for the fall 2003 term.

Undergraduate Transfer

This technical change is necessary to align the definition of first-time freshman with the definition of undergraduate transfer.

Required Modification to Title 5

Title 5, the *California Code of Regulations*, Section 40601(i), changes are proposed to implement this change.

ξ40601. Particular Terms

(i) The term “undergraduate transfer” means any person who is not a first-time freshman pursuant to Section 40601(h), has units attempted at any college, and who does not hold a baccalaureate degree from any college.

Adult Students

This is a technical change to Title 5, the *California Code of Regulations*, Sections 40756 and 40807 to reflect a change in the reference to Section 40405.1 which is now Section 40402.1. This technical change is necessary because when §40405.1 was renumbered §40402.1 in 1991, the reference to the renumbered section was not corrected in §40756 and §40807.

Required Modification to Title 5

Revise reference to entry-level skills as defined in Section 40402.1 (previously Section 40405.1):

§40756. Adult Students

An applicant who has attained the age of 25 years and is a high school graduate may be admitted to a campus as an adult student if the applicant's preparation and ability are such that in the judgment of the appropriate campus authority, the probability of the applicant's academic success at the campus is equivalent to that of students eligible under Section 40753, and the applicant demonstrates competence in entry-level skills as defined in Section ~~40405.1~~ 40402.1.

§40807. Adult Students

An applicant who has attained the age of 25 years and is a high school graduate may be admitted to a campus as an adult student (1) if the applicant was not enrolled as a full-time student for more than one academic term within the previous five years and (2) if for any college work completed during that five-year period the applicant received a "C" average and (3) if the applicant's motivation, preparation and ability are such that in the judgment of the appropriate campus authority the probability of academic success is equivalent to that of students eligible under Section 40803 and (4) if the applicant demonstrates competence in entry-level skills as defined in Section ~~40405.1~~ 40402.1.

Proposed Implementation Date

This provision will be effective on the date it is adopted by the Board of Trustees.