MEMORANDUM

Date: November 3, 2009

To: Provosts/Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs
    Vice Presidents for Student Affairs

From: Allison G. Jones
       Assistant Vice Chancellor

Subject: Admission Exception Allocations, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011

Trustee policy provides for a limited number of undergraduate admission exceptions to regular admission criteria. Exception admissions under this policy are commonly referred to as “special admits.” Two sections of Title 5, Article 6, California Code of Regulations, incorporate the policy:

Section 40900 General Exceptions
Section 40901 Exceptions for Applicants to Special Compensatory Programs

Article 6 states that an applicant not otherwise eligible for admission either as a first-time freshman applicant or as a transfer applicant with fewer than 60 semester units may be admitted provided that the number of applicants enrolled in each category does not exceed four percent of all undergraduate students enrolled for the first time during the previous year not including those students enrolled under the provision of the Article.

As indicated in the campus version of Attachment A to this coded memorandum, several campuses over-utilized admission exceptions during the 2008-2009 admission cycle.

There is continuing concern about the extent to which special admission students contribute to increasing enrollment demand and the need for CSU to provide pre-collegiate instruction. Further, the CSU should not exceed the total eight percent permitted by Title 5 under Article 6. Therefore, campuses now exercising enrollment controls and those anticipating the need to manage enrollment are encouraged to reexamine carefully the extent to which special admission applicants are admitted and enrolled.
On the other hand, some campuses have the capacity as well as the capability to provide access and opportunity for student success via the prudent use of exceptional admission. Such campuses should consider requesting additional exception admission allocations.

CSU Enrollment Reporting System data filed with the Division of Analytic Studies indicate new undergraduate enrollments in 2008-09 totaled approximately 113,000 of which 3,768 enrolled under provisions of Section 40900 and 1,585 enrolled under provisions of Section 40901. The systemwide total of 5,353 individuals enrolled as exceptions is within the CSU allocation for 2008-09. The maximum allowable limits for exceptional admission under Title 5 were not exceeded. Students admitted under Section 40901 are limited to disadvantaged applicants for whom special compensatory assistance is available. Section 40900 allocations may be used for disadvantaged applicants, but Section 40901 allocations may be used only to admit disadvantaged students. The total enrollments via Sections 40900 and 40901 should not exceed the total allocation.

Attachments to this memorandum provide data on the extent to which campuses utilized 2008-09 admission exception allocations and display campus allocations for 2009-10. Attachment A provides systemwide data, and Attachment B provides data for your campus. Recognizing enrollment trends and campus efforts to limit the use of special admission, the special admit allocations are generally less than the number generated for the system or individual campuses. A campus that has special needs that may not be accommodated within the indicated allocation should bring that to the attention of Chancellor’s staff as soon as possible.

Also included in the attachments is a preliminary allocation for 2010-11 for campus planning purposes. The 2010-11 allocations have been estimated based upon campus and system trends in undergraduate enrollment and previous exceptional admission activity. In response to increased enrollment pressures and California’s current budget limitations, allocations of “general” admission exceptions have been reduced by approximately 25 percent systemwide.

Questions about admission exception allocations should be addressed to Dr. James Blackburn, Director, Enrollment Management Services, Academic Affairs, Student Academic Support at (562) 951-4726 or jblackburn@calstate.edu.

AGJ/jcb/jd

Attachments

c:  CSU Presidents
    Dr. Jeri Echeverria, Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer
    Dr. James C. Blackburn, Director of Enrollment Management Services
    Dr. Philip C. Garcia, Senior Director of Analytic Studies
    Dr. Waddell M. Heron, Associate Director of Analytic Studies
    Directors of Admissions, Records, and Enrollment Management