

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Item Name: Proposed Change to ABOR Policy 2-102, "Undergraduate Admissions" (First Reading)

Action Item Discussion Item Information Item

Issue: The Board is asked to review, on first reading of, the proposed change to ABOR Policy 2-102, "Undergraduate Admissions," on the criteria for assured and delegated admission for Arizona resident transfer students.

Background

- ABOR Board Policy 2-102 provides the admission criteria for undergraduate students.
- Arizona undergraduate applicants who meet certain academic criteria are assured admission into the universities. Applicants who do not meet those criteria or who are non-residents may be considered for admission under delegated admission, the section of the policy which gives the universities discretion in selecting those students most likely to be successful.
- Specific requirements for freshmen and transfer students are also defined under assured and delegated admission criteria.
- A recent analysis of the success of Arizona transfer students suggests that the Board policy for assured admission is not optimal for the success of many transfer students at the universities.
- As a result, a proposal to redefine assured admission for Arizona transfer students is proposed.

Strategic Implications

- The Board of Regents, along with other organizations and entities within the state, are pursuing initiatives to increase the number of baccalaureate degrees produced in Arizona in order to be competitive nationally in education attainment and to insure our economic viability.
- Likewise, fiscal efficiency and productivity, while always a concern in the state, are even more critical under what is expected to be an extended period of budget constraint.
- By creating policies that support the success of students who enter our universities more students are expected to succeed in meeting their educational goals.

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Discussion

- The primary goal of this change is to set high standards for transfer students as well as to improve the success rate for transfer students who enter the universities.
- A recent study of Arizona community college students who transfer to the universities identified a significant difference in student success based on prior academic experiences.
- While some of this information is consistent with frequent findings from studies of transfer students (students with higher GPAs and more transfer credits are more successful than students with lower GPAs and fewer credits), this is the most comprehensive review of Arizona students under our existing transfer system.
- The proposed policy change would limit assured admission to the resident transfer students who either completed the Arizona General Education Curriculum (AGEC) and have a 2.5 cumulative GPA or an associate degree and have a 2.0 GPA. Students may also qualify for assured admission based on high school performance (top 25% of the graduating class and successful completion of all 16 core competencies).
- Other resident students and all non-residents will be eligible for admission under the delegated admission criteria within certain parameters.
- This proposal was reviewed by the Academic Affairs Committee on April 13, 2009. While the committee expressed support for the proposal, the Committee asked that it be well vetted with the community colleges before the Committee made a formal recommendation to the Board.
- In April, the proposal was presented to Arizona Academic Programs Articulation Steering Committee (APASC), the statewide transfer articulation operations group comprised of university academic administrators and community college chief academic officers, for comment. On May 1, 2009, APASC gave its unanimous endorsement of the policy change. Several community college presidents have also expressed support for the change.
- The proposal was also reviewed by a community college-university task force on admissions and records who made some minor recommendations to the language, which has been incorporated.
- This policy change would become effective for Fall 2010 admissions.

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Key Data/Findings

Attachment A provides an analysis of the cohort of students who transferred from the Arizona community colleges in 2004 and their retention, academic performance and graduation status after 4 years.

Attachment B shows the expected break down by assured and delegated admissions with the proposed policy using the last three years of admission data. System-wide, approximately one-third of students met the assured admission criteria.

Committee Review and Recommendation

The Academic Affairs Committee reviewed this proposal at its meeting on June 3, 2009, and recommends approval.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to review, on first reading, the proposed change to ABOR Policy 2-102, "Undergraduate Admissions" as presented in this Executive Summary.

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2-102 Undergraduate Admission

A. Requirements for Assured Admission for Residents of Arizona

1. Each university will admit all undergraduate applicants who are residents of Arizona and who meet the following general aptitude and basic competency requirements. Because of their strong academic performance in high school, these students will be recognized as "regents' graduates."

- a. General Aptitude

Applicants from a regionally accredited high school may demonstrate aptitude for academic work by ranking in the 75 to 100 percentile (upper 25 percent/first quartile) of their high school graduating classes.

- b. Basic Competencies

Applicants must demonstrate academic competency in each of the subjects listed below. Students who choose to demonstrate their competency in a subject by completing appropriate high school or college courses must attain an overall grade point average for courses in that subject of at least 2.00 on a 4.00=A scale. A high school credit is defined as one (1) year of study.

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- ~~2. Each university will admit all undergraduate applicants who are residents of Arizona and have a minimum of 24 transferable college or university credit hours in academic courses such as English, Mathematics, Social Science, Physical or Life Sciences, Foreign Languages, or the Humanities with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 on a 4.00=A scale and meet the basic competency subjects required in ABOR Policy 2-102A.1.b. (Undergraduate Admission, Requirements for Assured Admission for Residents of Arizona, Basic Competencies)~~

- ~~3- 2.~~ Each university will admit all undergraduate applicants who are residents of Arizona and who complete the Arizona General Education curriculum (AGEC-A, AGEC-B or AGEC-S) AND HAVE A MINIMUM CUMULATIVE OF 2.5 or have an associate or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education with a ~~AND_HAVE_A~~ minimum 2.00 GPA on a 4.00=A scale.

3. Each university will admit all home schooled students who meet common criteria to be established by the universities.

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B. DELEGATED UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

1. Each university may use its discretion in admitting NON-RESIDENT APPLICANTS AND RESIDENT applicants for undergraduate admission who do not meet the requirements in ABOR Policy 2-102A Undergraduate Admission, Requirements for Assured Admission of Residents of Arizona) provided the applicants lack no more than one (1) credit in two (2) of the basic competency subjects required in ABOR Policy 2-102A.1.b. Undergraduate Admission, Requirements for Assured Admission for Residents of Arizona, Basic Competencies), except not in both mathematics and laboratory science, and
 - a. have fewer than 24 transferable college or university credit hours and rank in the upper 50-74 percentile (second quartile) of their high school graduating class or have a cumulative high school grade point average of 2.50 or above on a 4.00=A scale, or
 - b. HAVE 24-59 TRANSFERABLE COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY CREDIT HOURS IN ACADEMIC COURSES SUCH AS ENGLISH, MATHEMATICS, SOCIAL SCIENCE, PHYSICAL OR LIFE SCIENCES, FOREIGN LANGUAGES, OR THE HUMANITIES WITH A CUMULATIVE GRADE POINT AVERAGE OF AT LEAST 2.50 ON A 4.00=A SCALE, OR
 - ~~b-c. are not residents of Arizona for tuition purposes and have a minimum of 24~~ HAVE 60 OR MORE transferable college or university credit hours with a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.00 on a 4.00=A scale.
2. Students admitted under the conditions in ABOR Policy 2-102 B.1.a., and B.1.b, (Undergraduate Admission, Delegated Undergraduate Admission), must satisfy any deficiencies in the basic competencies and may be required to participate in special programs designed to strengthen academic preparedness for university-level courses.
3. Each university will consider a high school credit in career and technical education as part of the delegated admissions process. Career and technical education courses are defined as those high school courses in career and technical disciplines that include competencies beneficial to college preparation. These courses should be selected from those that include the highest level of competencies in the Arizona secondary school curriculum for career and technical education.

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Arizona University System
Students Entering as New AZCC Transfers in Fall 2004

		Status as of 21st-Day:													
Transfer Credits	Degree Status	Entering Number	First Sem GPA	Fall 2005		Fall 2006		Fall 2007		Fall 2008		Fall 2008		Total Univ Earned Hrs	
				Enrolled or Graduated		Enrolled or Graduated		Enrolled or Graduated		Enrolled or Graduated		Graduated			
				Percent	CGPA	Percent	CGPA	Percent	CGPA	Percent	CGPA	Percent	CGPA		
All Students	AGEC Only	248	2.87	85.9%	3.05	83.1%	3.08	78.6%	3.12	78.2%	3.18	72.2%	3.18	67.6	
	ASSC Only (AGS)	191	2.83	86.9%	3.05	80.1%	3.07	79.1%	3.12	75.4%	3.19	71.2%	3.19	67.1	
	Both AGECE and ASSC	780	3.02	86.4%	3.24	80.8%	3.31	78.7%	3.35	78.1%	3.39	73.3%	3.39	65.5	
	Neither AGECE nor ASSC	1,770	2.72	79.2%	3.01	71.5%	3.11	68.9%	3.16	66.7%	3.28	57.1%	3.29	71.4	
	Total	2,989	2.82	82.1%	3.08	75.4%	3.16	72.9%	3.21	71.2%	3.30	63.5%	3.30	69.0	
12-34	Neither AGECE nor ASSC	359	2.35	68.5%	2.75	56.5%	2.89	53.2%	2.97	47.1%	3.25	31.5%	3.24	97.6	
35-59	AGECE Only	151	2.80	86.1%	3.03	81.5%	3.07	78.1%	3.11	78.1%	3.17	72.2%	3.17	69.2	
	Neither AGECE nor ASSC	749	2.65	77.7%	2.98	70.1%	3.06	67.4%	3.11	66.1%	3.22	55.7%	3.23	72.3	
	Total	900	2.68	79.1%	2.99	72.0%	3.07	69.2%	3.11	68.1%	3.22	58.4%	3.22	71.7	
60+	AGECE Only	97	2.99	85.6%	3.08	85.6%	3.09	79.4%	3.14	78.4%	3.19	72.2%	3.19	65.1	
	ASSC Only (AGS)	191	2.83	86.9%	3.05	80.1%	3.07	79.1%	3.12	75.4%	3.19	71.2%	3.19	67.1	
	Both AGECE and ASSC	780	3.02	86.4%	3.24	80.8%	3.31	78.7%	3.35	78.1%	3.39	73.3%	3.39	65.5	
	Neither AGECE nor ASSC	662	2.98	86.6%	3.16	81.1%	3.23	79.2%	3.27	78.1%	3.34	72.5%	3.34	64.4	
	Total	1,730	2.99	86.5%	3.17	81.1%	3.24	79.0%	3.28	77.8%	3.34	72.7%	3.34	65.2	

AZCC Transfers have 12 or more hours from one or more Arizona community college and less than 12 hours from any other institution.

Associate degrees reflect transfer degrees only; AAS degrees are not included.

Excludes students with a non-Arizona Associate degree and Maricopa students with a Transfer Partnership Degree.

January 5, 2009

