

**Office of the President**

**TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY:**

**ACTION ITEM**

*For Meeting of January 19, 2011*

**RESOLUTION REGARDING INDIVIDUALIZED REVIEW AND HOLISTIC  
EVALUATION IN UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The President recommends that the Committee on Educational Policy recommend to the Regents that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the University of California is committed to achieving excellence and inclusiveness in its undergraduate student body; and

WHEREAS, in May 1988, the Regents adopted a Policy on Undergraduate Admissions that states in part that “Mindful of its mission as a public institution, the University of California...seeks to enroll, on each of its campuses, a student body that demonstrates high academic achievement or exceptional personal talent and that encompasses the broad diversity of...backgrounds characteristic of California;” and

WHEREAS, in 2002, the University, acting on the recommendation of the Academic Senate, implemented an application evaluation procedure that calls for campuses to utilize a broad range of criteria to assess each applicant’s academic and personal achievement in the context of opportunities; and

WHEREAS, proper evaluation of applicants’ achievements in the context of opportunity requires that information about their schools and community be available in a uniform manner, and several campuses have made considerable progress in accomplishing this through the use of extensive school-based information; and

WHEREAS, evaluation of applicants’ achievement in the context of opportunities and challenges requires that a trained reader examine the entire application in considering personal achievements, challenges, leadership, and contributions to applicants’ communities alongside context information; and

WHEREAS, a form of Comprehensive Review in which the reader produces a single holistic score based on all information in the applicant's file has been shown to thoroughly evaluate each applicant's achievement in relation to opportunities and challenges; and

WHEREAS, the Regents expect the Office of the President, in consultation with the Academic Senate and local admissions committees, to exercise leadership in the realization of best practices in undergraduate admissions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Regents direct the President, in consultation with the Academic Senate and campus admissions professionals, to ensure that all applicants receive an individualized review that ensures trained readers examine applicants' full files to evaluate their accomplishments in the context of opportunity;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Regents direct the President, in consultation with the Academic Senate and campus admissions professionals, to continue to research and develop a database to be used with the human read of every application that provides background on the available opportunities and challenges faced by the applicant within his or her school and community;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Regents direct the President, in consultation with the Academic Senate, to affirm that single-score holistic evaluation is the expected implementation of Comprehensive Review, while allowing flexibility for campuses that can demonstrate that alternate approaches employed by their campuses are equally effective in achieving campus and University goals;

BE IT RESOLVED that University of California campuses must remain committed to recruiting students from the full range of California high schools and regions in order to achieve the potential of the University's admission policy for California's students;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Regents direct the President to annually report to the Board on the progress of these initiatives on each campus.

### **BACKGROUND**

At the July 14, 2010, meeting of the Committee on Educational Policy, Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) Chair Sylvia Hurtado presented the BOARS report on *Comprehensive Review in Freshman Admissions at the University of California, 2003 - 2009*. Educational Policy Chair Regent Island requested an update on the progress of the recommendations in the report.

This resolution establishes the Regents' expectations of the President, faculty and campuses with respect to the admissions process.

Following the adoption of the resolution, annual reports will be presented to the Committee on Educational Policy, starting in May 2011. The purpose of these reports is to highlight specific efforts towards achieving the University's comprehensive review objectives.