

**Office of the President**

**TO MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:**

## **DISCUSSION ITEM**

*For Meeting of May 23, 2018*

### **TRANSFER TASK FORCE UPDATE**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In December 2017, President Napolitano convened the Transfer Task Force to analyze the current scope of transfer admission options for prospective UC applicants, with a goal of attaining more and better-prepared transfer students by ensuring greater transparency of UC's requirements for successful transfer. This presentation will provide an update on the President's Transfer Task Force and its final report.

#### **BACKGROUND**

A key recommendation from the 2013 President's Transfer Action Team was to streamline the transfer process for prospective UC students. To that end, the UC Transfer Pathways initiative set out to identify a common set of lower-division preparatory courses for each of UC's 21 most popular majors among transfer applicants. These new Transfer Pathways would present a clear roadmap for prospective transfers to prepare for their desired major, without having to be concerned about UC campus differences in course expectations. The Pathways embody the recommendations of faculty from the 21 majors across UC's nine undergraduate campuses: students completing a Pathway before transfer will have met the course requirements for admission at any UC campus, and should be well-positioned to successfully complete their degree in a timely manner.

The 21 Pathways were developed in 2015 under joint leadership of the UC Academic Senate and the Provost, and in collaboration with the UC Office of the President's (UCOP) Office of Undergraduate Admissions and the California Community Colleges (CCC). UC faculty in Phase 1 of the initiative defined the sets of courses for CCC students that would prepare them for transfer admission to any UC campus for these 21 majors. In Phase 2, UCOP's Office of Undergraduate Admissions coordinated the efforts with UC campuses and CCCs to align 115,000 CCC courses with Pathway course expectations, a critical step toward achieving full Pathways for transfer applicants from the CCC system. The current listings of existing Pathways appear on the *UC Transfer Pathways Guide*: <https://pathwaysguide.universityofcalifornia.edu/>

Recognizing the need for expanded collaborative effort between the Academic Senates and the administrations from the public higher education segments, President Napolitano established the

Transfer Task Force to assess UC's transfer admission policies and practices, advance intersegmental collaborations in support of transfer, and issue recommendations for next steps.

In its final report (Attachment 1), the Transfer Task Force presents **five core recommendations** that advise the UC Academic Senate and UCOP leadership on new or existing policies for increasing the effectiveness of CCC-to-UC transfer. During the Task Force deliberations, CCC Chancellor Ortiz Oakley and President Napolitano agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding that aligns with these recommendations.

1) *UC systemwide transfer admission guarantee*

Guarantee a place in the UC system to all CCC transfer applicants who complete a UC Transfer Pathway with a grade point average (GPA) above the minimum GPA in the Pathway courses and an overall GPA exceeding the minimum overall GPA required.

2) *Expansion of UC Transfer Pathways*

Through UC Academic Senate leadership, regularly convene discipline-specific UC faculty in partnership with the CCC and California State University (CSU) Academic Senates to consider changes to the Pathway requirements, when deemed appropriate, and to explore ways to improve articulation of courses between segments.

3) *Associate of Science degrees for guaranteed admission pilot*

Collaborate with CCCs in a pilot project to create two new Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees that provide sufficient pre-major preparation and are based on UC Transfer Pathways in Chemistry and in Physics. Students completing the Chemistry or Physics Pathways with the minimum GPA expected would already be guaranteed admission to UC, under the proposed systemwide guarantees. This recommendation combines the benefits of a guarantee with the additional benefits of an associate's degree. Such degrees are important milestones for students and their families, and provide further guidance in students' academic planning. The Task Force recommends that additional degrees be developed, as needed, if the pilot is deemed successful, and where the ADTs do not fully prepare students for transfer to UC.

4) *Comprehensive research on UC transfer preparation, advising, and communications*

Conduct a thorough research initiative grounded in quantitative and qualitative design, from UC systemwide and intersegmental studies to market research, to identify opportunities for new transfer advising innovations, clarify how UC can better serve the needs of prospective and incoming transfer students, inform a strategic UC transfer communications plan, and ultimately develop a culture of ongoing research to inform policy.

5) *UC Transfer Work Group*

Establish a Transfer Work Group jointly led by the UC Academic Senate and UCOP, including intersegmental representation and relevant subcommittees, to monitor and report on ongoing efforts and success of the President's Transfer Initiative. The achievement of short- and long-term goals to streamline and enhance UC transfer depends on sustained progress on several fronts, including admissions policymaking, identifying new best practices, systemwide/campus-specific evaluations, and subsequent recalibration, as needed.

**Key to Acronyms**

ADT	Associate Degrees for Transfer
A.S.	Associate of Science
CCC	California Community Colleges
CSU	California State University
GPA	Grade Point Average
UCOP	UC Office of the President

Attachments:

**Attachment 1: Enhancing the Student Transfer Pathway: A Report of the President's  
Transfer Task Force**