

An Update from Admissions

CAS Spring Meeting
Seattle, WA
May 17, 2016



Contents

- Update from the VP of Admissions
- Admissions Process: Recent Accomplishments
- Admissions Process: Initiatives in Process or Under Consideration
- Volunteer with us!
- Questions and Discussion



Update from the VP of Admissions

- Goals for the coming year
- Incorporating technology into Admissions
- Actuary of the Future / iCAS
 - Syllabus content
 - Methods for delivery and validation



Admissions Process: Recent Accomplishments

- **Launch of Future Fellows**
 - The Future Fellows brand has been expanded beyond the quarterly newsletter to represent the entire community of CAS candidates
 - Plans for increasing engagement include new channels such as the new Future Fellows online community
- **Future Fellows Online Community**
 - A link has been added to the CAS homepage that directs candidates to a web portal with easy access to the wide range of CAS content applicable to them
 - A dedicated page was created for news specific to Future Fellows



Admissions Process: Recent Accomplishments (cont'd)

News

Admissions Announces Clarification Regarding Ambiguous or Defe...



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Admissions



Exams



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Benefits



Newsletter



Blog



GET CONNECTED



Community



Profile



Careers



GET INVOLVED



Volunteer



Events



Affiliates



Admissions Process: Recent Accomplishments (cont'd)

- Syllabus Updates

- New Exam 8 paper on applied GLMs approved and ready for 2016
- Additional Exam 8 study note draft complete and undergoing final review for 2017
- Exam 5 ratemaking study note updates in process
- Exam S updated readings
- Transition from Exams ST and LC to Exam S completed as of May 2016
- CAS recognizing and responding to the importance of additional statistical knowledge and skills for future actuaries



Admissions Process: Recent Accomplishments (cont'd)

- Online Courses
 - Continuing to work with The Institutes to improve interface for online courses
- Candidate Advisory Panel
 - Formed to serve as an on-call survey response group that will facilitate future CAS candidate research activities
 - Gives candidates volunteer opportunities and ability to have more say in the CAS
 - Volunteers are now being accepted – contact mboa@casact.org



Admissions Process: Initiatives in Process or Under Consideration

- Improving exam quality
 - Expanded use of pre-testers
 - Formalization of roles related to the examination review process, identifying opportunities to leverage the expertise of syllabus volunteers and ensuring questions are reviewed by multiple volunteers
 - Actively working with consultants with expertise in specific areas of the syllabus
 - Re-examination of Bloom Taxonomy targets and learning objective statements to more closely align these two items



Admissions Process: Initiatives in Process or Under Consideration (cont'd)

- Acceleration of the appeals process
 - Separation of the appeals windows between the associateship exams and the fellowship exams
 - For the associateship exams, the window for submitting appeals to the CAS office has been shortened from four weeks to two weeks
 - We have shortened the length of time between when the exam is administered and when the examiner's report is posted, and are taking steps to shorten it even further
- Administration of Exams 7-9 semi-annually
 - Requires significant additional resources
 - Has been deprioritized for the immediate future
 - Will be reconsidered after other initiatives have been accomplished



Admissions Process: Initiatives in Process or Under Consideration (cont'd)

- Release of scores for passing candidates
 - Admissions team has submitted a proposal to the Executive Council supporting this objective
 - If change is made, it will apply only prospectively (i.e., passing scores will not be released for previously administered exams)
 - Detailed score analysis by question would not be provided to passing candidates
- Release of scores on CAS website
 - Candidates will be able to log on to the CAS website and see the official grade report beginning with the fall 2016 sitting
 - Electronic delivery of fail reports is being explored



Admissions Process: Initiatives in Process or Under Consideration (cont'd)

- Release of candidate answer sheets
 - A challenging suggestion for the Admissions team to address, including significant logistical challenges
 - The CAS is not aware of any other professional credentialing organization that currently maintains this practice
 - Concern that the release of candidate papers could vastly increase the number of invalid appeals; releases of candidate papers with limitations or restrictions on appeals are being considered
 - Release of graded or marked-up answer sheets is not being considered



Admissions Process: Initiatives in Process or Under Consideration (cont'd)

- Exploring new exam delivery technologies
 - Working with vendors to try to identify a partner that can help to administer exams utilizing spreadsheets and word processing
 - Desire to administer exams in a computer-based environment, allowing the CAS to increase focus on testing application of concepts to actual datasets
 - Would also streamline the process of sending candidate responses to graders, grading candidate responses, and tabulating individual candidate scores; could result in a faster turn-around time between administration of the exam and release of passing candidate numbers



Admissions Process: Initiatives in Process or Under Consideration (cont'd)

- **Coordination with Staff Actuary**
 - Reviewing drafts of exams for content and quality
 - Drafting questions for exams, particularly on new content
 - Monitoring educational structures in other actuarial organizations
 - Consideration of future actuarial education needs
 - Exploring and testing new exam delivery technologies



Volunteer with us!

- We thank the hundreds of volunteers who collectively spend thousands of hours each year volunteering for CAS Admissions, many of them balancing their exam and syllabus-related responsibilities with full-time jobs and a multitude of other commitments
- To join our team and share your ideas, contact Ashley Zamperini, CAS Director of Admissions, at azamperini@casact.org.
- Keep an eye out for the annual CAS Participation Survey (July 2016)!



Questions and Discussion

