

May 9, 2016

To: Academic Senate Members of the Davis Division

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to update you on two matters: progress on the Four Year Completion Initiative and the Academic Senate's posting of the documents released under the Public Records Act (PRA) to the Sacramento Bee on Wednesday, April 27, 2016.

Four Year Completion Initiative (FYCI)

As you know, in Fall 2015, the FYCI was launched by the Academic Senate, the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education, and the Chair of the Council of Associate Deans. The objective of FYCI is to create an educational environment that enables—but does not mandate—an undergraduate student to complete a degree in four years. That is, the objective of FYCI is not to force all students to complete a degree in four years, but to make that option available and feasible. By March 2016, as requested, all departments submitted a wealth of information about factors that they view as impeding timely progress to undergraduate degrees. The inputs received are summarized in my communication to the [Department Representatives on April 18, 2016](#) (see pages 3 to 22).

Last Friday I announced to the Representative Assembly the “[Plan of Action to Address Obstacles to Four-Year Graduation](#).” This plan will:

- Further assess and quantify the relationship between the identified obstacles and the four-year graduation rate; and
- Identify and pursue actions to improve the four-year graduation rate.

Priority #1 is to “Identify and enable actions that are most likely to improve retention and graduation rates *in the near term*.” Additional information is forthcoming.

Release of Documents Obtained by the Sacramento Bee under the Public Records Act (PRA)

On April 27 at 8:30 PM, UC Office of the President released documents requested by the Sacramento Bee under the Public Records Act. One outcome of my discussion with President Napolitano on Thursday, April 28, was that the Davis Division of the Academic Senate would be provided access to such PRA documents. I have now received these documents from the Office of the President, and they are all being made available to you today.

The PRA documents will be accessible via the [Academic Senate webpage](#). Academic Senate members may use the forum tool to submit questions regarding the documents by entering their Kerberos identification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Knoesen', with a stylized, flowing script.

André Knoesen
Chair, Academic Senate
Professor: Electrical and Computer Engineering