

February 19, 2016

Carolyn ThomasVice Provost & Dean
Undergraduate Education

Re: Special Academic Program Proposal for International Academic English

Dear Carolyn,

Undergraduate Education (UE) proposed the creation of a Special Academic Program for International Academic English to offer credit bearing courses providing oral skills in English to international undergraduate and graduate students. Responses were received from the Graduate Council, Undergraduate Council, and the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB), as well as the Faculty Executive Committees of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the College of Letters and Sciences (L&S FEC). While the need for such courses is recognized by all, the proposal is not supported by CPB and the L&S FEC.

Given that credit bearing courses in English writing have previously been transferred from Linguistics to the University Writing Program, the L&S FEC raises the question of why a separate program for oral skills needs to exist outside of L&S. L&S FEC instead suggests that a comprehensive program be created within L&S to serve both undergraduate and graduate students needing training in ESL.

Based on this, the Division's position on the proposal is the following:

1. The proposal to create a special academic program in UE is not approved.
2. Within the next year, L&S Faculty Executive Committee should create a fully-integrated comprehensive and coordinated academic program for ESL instruction to include both writing and oral proficiencies.
3. In the interim, we request that the Provost allocate the needed human and financial resources to an academic unit within L&S (such as University Writing Program) to allow, under faculty supervision, the offering of existing credit bearing courses in oral training in English to international undergraduate and graduate students.

Additionally, it was also proposed that UE administer the testing to confirm graduate students employed as teaching assistants to meet the campus English proficiency requirement. Graduate Council supports this aspect of the proposal. Consistent with Bylaw 80 B.14 of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate stating that Graduate Council sets "policies and standards for appointment of graduate students to be

Teaching Assistants...” the Division supports the administration by UE of the English proficiency requirements of the campus.

Sincerely,



Andre Knoesen
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor: Electrical and Computer Engineering

cc: Ralph Hexter, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
Brenda Schildgen, Chair, L&S Faculty Executive Committee
Ed Caswell-Chen, Chair, Undergraduate Council
Kyaw Tha Paw U, Chair, Graduate Council
Jeffery Gibeling, Dean, Graduate Studies
Susan Kaiser, Interim Dean, Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
Li Zhang, Interim Dean, Social Sciences
Alexandra Navrotsky, Interim Dean, Mathematical and Physical Sciences
Edwin Arevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Matthew Traxler, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Planning