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May 1, 2013

ROBERT L. POWELL, CHAIR
University of California Academic
Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Amendments to Senate Regulations – “IGETC for STEM Majors”

The proposal was forwarded to all Davis Division of the Academic Senate standing committees and Faculty Executive Committees within the schools and colleges for comment. Detailed responses were received from the Admissions and Enrollment Committee, and from the Faculty Executive Committee for the College of Letters and Science.

Most of the proposed revisions, including the details of the new IGETC for Stem Majors option in SR 478, seem unproblematic. Existing Senate Regulations pertaining to admissions are revised to improve nomenclatural and organizational consistency and accuracy. Revisions fully accommodate policy changes that have occurred since 2009. They also articulate the IGETC language in SR 478 to bring them into conformance with Senate approved or Academic Council endorsed changes in June of 2012, or that are necessitated by policy changes enacted by the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS).

Our first general recommendation is that several aspects of the document seem vague, making it difficult to determine the effects the proposed changes will have, and to discern the goals of the changes. We hope that this proposal will address the issue of many students transferring from a community college to UC STEM majors without adequate preparation for third-year course work and end up failing classes. We optimistically endorse the idea of setting up a system whereby they would be better prepared to succeed in UC courses.

In addition, we question whether it is feasible for science and mathematics transfer students to complete general education requirements after being admitted to UC Davis. Second, the UC Davis unit cap of 225 units may exacerbate course-work issues for transfer students. These issues could be ameliorated by improving advising to students before and after transfer.

Approval of the revision is advisable following the addition of a clear goal to assist students and advisers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bruno Nachtergaele".

Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor: Mathematics