

May 9, 2014

**DENNIS PENDLETON, DEAN**  
UC Davis Extension

**RE: Request for X100 Course Designation for Sierra Institute**

My office has confirmed with Chair Williams that his committee no longer has the concerns expressed previously, following a March 2014 vote by the Undergraduate Council. The Sierra Institute does meet the criteria for a Special Academic Program. The Special Academic Programs (SAP) Committee will be in touch soon concerning its review process.

The request for an X100 course designation for Sierra Institute is approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruno Nachtergaele', written in a cursive style.

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

c: COCI Chair Potter  
SAP Chair Williams  
UGC Chair Traxler

April 16, 2014

**DENNIS PENDLETON, DEAN**  
UC Davis Extension

**RE: Request for X100 Course Designation for Sierra Institute**

The UC Davis Extension request to grant Sierra Institute courses an X100 designation was forwarded to all Davis Division of the Academic Senate standing committees and Faculty Executive Committees from the Schools and Colleges. Responses were received from Undergraduate and Graduate Councils, the Faculty Executive Committee from the College of Letters and Science, and the Committee on Special Academic Programs (SAP).

The committees support the designation. Undergraduate Council approves the request for X100 designations for Sierra Institute courses, with the understanding that UC Davis Extension will follow Regulation 800 A guidelines for instructors of record.

SAP noted that using the X100 designation for Sierra Institute courses would allow undergraduates to quickly receive credit for participation in the courses. While agreeing that the courses offer a great enrichment opportunity, appear exciting, and seem to have intellectual merit, the committee expressed the following concerns:

1. It is unclear whether the credentials of the course instructors are verified by a campus unit.
2. Links were not provided to the course descriptions or approvals mentioned in the request letter.
3. The request does not speak to questions of course format, modes of instruction, assessment, prerequisites (if any), nor even to the basic mechanics of the courses, such as unit values and grading options (P/NP or Letter Grade). Further, no information about assessment instruments, grading options, attendance requirements, or modes of formal instruction (if any) could be found on the Sierra Institute's website.
4. The committee's biggest concern was the apparent contradiction between the website, which states, "The Sierra Institute is currently working with campus departments to have courses fulfill individual major and GE requirements," and the request letter: "In addition, we are not seeking GE credit for any of the courses."

A response to the concerns listed above will allow us to complete review.

Sincerely,



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