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ROBERT ANDERSON, CHAIR

University of California
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Re: Systemwide Review Senate Regulation 610

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 Committee on Planning and Budget and Undergraduate Council. In addition, the Faculty Executive Committee from College Letters and Science commented.

Support for UCEPs recommendation that "as the number of approved online courses increases, metrics be employed to determine what proportion of students' courses of study.....are satisfied using online courses." In particular, the metrics have to be in place in advance of any massive adoption of online courses; we need to ask beforehand whether we will be content with a student receiving a UC degree who has taken all his or her courses online. In general, the Committee was unenthusiastic about that possible scenario. While the current state of our online courses obviously would not make it a possibility, we advise looking towards the future implications early rather than late.

The Undergraduate Council's response is directly relevant as follows:

Main Proposed Change to SR 610

Residence in any regular term is validated by a program of courses or other exercises approved by the Faculty of a student's college or school, irrespective of physical location or mode of delivery.

The added phrase (underlined) makes explicit what the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (in the ruling of 3/2/11) found to be already at least implicit in this regulation, i.e., that the only thing that matters for validation of residence for a term is taking courses approved by the Faculty of the relevant school or college. As such, normally approved courses offered for satisfaction of degree requirements at UC Berkeley, for example, can be counted by Berkeley students as being taken "in residence," even if they are offered online and the work happens to be done in New Mexico.

UCEP, according to the letter from chair David Kay, claims, moreover, that:

*The regulation should explicitly apply to courses approved and offered by the UC campus that will award the degree, **or to UC systemwide courses**, irrespective of physical location or mode of delivery. [emphasis added]*

But, this regulation in and of itself, whether in the proposed revised form or its original form, fails to authorize UC systemwide courses as counting for validation of residence at particular campuses, for the same reason that it fails to authorize courses taken in the Education Abroad Program, for example. [Senate Bylaw 51](#) has the effect of requiring approval by a Faculty for the curricula that satisfy its degree requirements. Systemwide courses may be approved by UCEP, under the authority granted by [Bylaw 170](#) and [SR 544](#), but the local Committee on Courses of Instruction (or similar) has to approve them as well in order for them to count for determining residence at a particular campus. Thus, the only effect of this revision is to clarify that "residence" can be validated by either online or off-campus courses that are approved in the requisite way. It would be helpful if the documents introducing the proposed revision were clear about this rather important matter.

The proposed alternative revision has the effect that is apparently intended, i.e., to authorize residence validation by means of online or off-campus courses, while also solving certain problems with the original language that are discussed in detail below.

Alternative revision

610. Residence in a college or school or another such unit of the University is established by enrollment in courses of instruction approved for that unit by an agency of the Senate with the requisite course approval authority. Physical location and mode of delivery of instruction are not determining factors. California residence for tuition purposes is an unrelated matter.

For undergraduate students, residence in any regular term is validated by completion of at least six units of qualifying coursework. For graduate students, see [SR 688-690](#).

Problems with first sentence of SR 610

Residence in any regular term is validated by a program of courses or other exercises approved by the Faculty of a student's college or school.

Ambiguity and vagueness

With the notation **{item 1/item 2}** indicating an either/or interpretation and uppercase letters in italics representing variables in the sense of predicate logic, the possible interpretations of this sentence are:

A regular term *T* counts as being “in residence” for a student *S* if *S* **{completes/enrolls in}** courses of instruction during *T* that have been approved by the Faculty of **{S's/one or another student's}** college or school.

The problems, in essence, are first, that it is left unclear whether *attempting* or *completing* at least six units of coursework is necessary for residence validation and, second, that the phrase *a student* is not necessarily interpreted as designating the otherwise implicit student whose residence is at issue.

Further problems

This sentence should clearly define the concept *residence*, since it is the first sentence of the opening paragraph for the article entitled “Residence,” which is the opening segment of the section on “Curricula” of Part III of the Senate Regulations, where this term is used in ways with important ramifications. However, it fails as a definition, as it only specifies who approves the courses in a “program” of courses relevant to undefined residence *somewhere*. Moreover, the word *program* invites misinterpretation, especially if the meaning is intended to be nothing more than “set,” as appears to be the case, because this word is more commonly used to designate entire bodies of coursework and activities required for a degree, rather than a “study list” of courses for a term, which is what is actually at issue. There is a similar problem with the word *exercises*, since there are no unit-bearing activities at the University of California that are not in the category designated by the term *courses (of instruction)*, as is made evident by the second sentence, which uses only *courses of instruction*. Finally, it seems to be a big problem that the courses that are said to validate residence for a term are restricted to those that are approved by the Faculty of a college or school (and not the Faculty of a Division, for example). Under the presumed intended interpretation, students completing a degree in the College of Letters & Science (L&S) at UC Davis, for example, who happen to take 12 units of coursework in the College of Engineering in a particular term and only 3 units in L&S in the same term apparently fail to validate this term as one completed or attempted in residence in their college or at UC Davis, because the Faculty of L&S has not approved the courses of the College of Engineering, which are only under the joint approval jurisdiction of Engineering and the Divisional Committee on Courses of Instruction. Although there may be a generous interpretation according to which the Faculty of L&S implicitly approves for its students courses approved by the Committee on Courses of Instruction for other colleges, it should not be necessary to resort to interpretive generosity with academic regulations of such importance. Similarly, graduate courses of instruction are typically under the approval jurisdiction of either a graduate council or a Divisional Faculty, rather than a Faculty of a school or college. Thus, although this first sentence appears to set the general parameters for residence for all students, it is technically inapplicable to graduate students.

Problem with second sentence of SR 610

For undergraduates this shall be at least six units of resident courses of instruction.

The word *this* in this sentence must get its value from a non-plural noun phrase (or similar construct) in the previous sentence. As such, its value could, in principle, come from either *residence in any regular term* or *program of*

courses ... approved by the Faculty ... However, the interpretation with either choice yields a meaning that crucially depends on there being an independent meaning for the phrase *resident courses*, which there isn't, since neither *residence* nor *resident course* is defined elsewhere in the Senate Code. The available interpretations of the first two sentences, with the value of the word *this* specified, are:

- “For undergraduates, *residence* in any regular term, which shall be at least six units of *resident courses*, is validated by a program of courses ... approved by the Faculty”
- “For undergraduates, *residence* in any regular term is validated by a program of courses ... approved by the Faculty ..., which shall be at least six units of *resident courses* of instruction.”

The definition of *residence* is hopelessly circular.

General Problem

If one purpose of this regulation is to define the term *residence* for the Code, as it should, it needs to encompass not only the notion of residence in a college or school, but also, at least, residence on a campus (e.g., Davis Regulation [A545](#)) or at the University of California (e.g., [SR 474](#)).

Sincerely,



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