Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulations - "IGETC for STEM Majors"

April 22, 2013

BOARS is proposing the introduction of a new “IGETC for STEM Majors” option in SR 478, and eliminating the existing “SciGETC” option. The IGETC for STEM Majors sequence is needed to implement the new transfer admissions policy in SR 476 that the Assembly approved in June 2012. In order to enable the change, BOARS is recommending revision to several regulations with the most significant amendment proposed for SR 478.
Existing Senate regulations pertaining to admissions are being revised in such a way as to improve nomenclatural and organizational consistency and accuracy, while fully accommodating policy changes that occurred in 2009 or subsequently and articulating the IGETC regulations in SR 478 in such a way as to bring them into conformance with changes that were either approved by the Senate or endorsed by Academic Council in June of 2012 or that are necessitated by policy changes at the level of the Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS). All of the proposed revisions, including the details of the new IGETC for Stem Majors option in SR 478, seem unproblematic. Approval is advisable.
The L&S Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) finds the wording of the proposed amendment to lack clarity about the intended goal. We hope that this proposal is in response to the reality that we face of many students coming from the Community College system in the STEM majors who enter 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 courses at the university level, if that is indeed the intent of the proposal.

We also recommend that the amendment language make the goal of the change clear for both students and advisers.
Graduate Council

March 5, 2013 5:26 PM

No response at this time.
The Undergraduate Council reviewed and discussed the Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulations – “IGETC for STEM Majors.” The UGC found aspects of the document to be vague. As a result, UGC had difficulty determining what effects the proposed changes would have.

UGC's interpretation of the document led to the following additional concerns:

1. The UGC questions whether it is feasible for science and mathematics transfer students to complete general education requirements after they are admitted to UCD. For instance, 3rd-year (junior) transfer students may experience difficulty fitting lower division courses into their schedule, given the extensive course work required for STEM disciplines.

2. The UCD unit cap may exacerbate course-work issues for transfer students. These students may take a maximum of 225 units. Units taken prior to transfer may not count towards the major, but such units are still counted against the 225-unit cap. This problem could be ameliorated by improved advising, but UCD does not have the means to directly affect advising that takes place before students transfer to UCD. Better advising could point students towards courses that are fully transferable to UCD (prior to transfer) and would help clarify for students what their course work schedule will be at UC Davis (after transfer).