

Professional Schools Offering Undergraduate Degrees
Committee on Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction
December 19, 2011

CERJ was asked for advice as to whether a professional school can offer a new undergraduate degree without first obtaining approval at the universitywide level. The advice is that unless a degree title unique to the Davis campus (such as “Bachelor of Business”) would be used, no universitywide review is required.

Rationale

The establishment of degree programs is governed by the universitywide “Compendium: Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, & Research Units”:

http://www.ucop.edu/ucophome/coordrev/ucpolicies/documents/compendium_jan2011.pdf,

which states,

With the exception of undergraduate degree programs involving a title unique to the campus, all actions involving undergraduate degree programs are carried out on the nine established campuses. That is, creating a new undergraduate degree program, changing the name of an existing undergraduate degree program, and consolidating, transferring, or discontinuing an existing undergraduate degree program are campus decisions and *there is no universitywide review of them*. If approved by the responsible divisional Academic Senate committee and supported by the campus administration, a proposed action involving an undergraduate degree program is implemented. (p. 9, emphasis added).

The Compendium defines a degree title through examples such as Bachelor of Science or Master of Fine Arts (p. 13). Unless the proposal for a new major would have a new title unique to the campus (e.g., “Bachelor of Business”), there is no universitywide review of the proposal.

Also, PPM 200-25, Exhibit A, contains a flow-chart according to which only proposals for establishing graduate programs are routed to universitywide beyond the campus.

There is a more fundamental question as to whether a professional school can offer an undergraduate degree at all. There is nothing in the “Compendium” or in the Code of the Senate which prohibits a professional school from offering an undergraduate degree. In fact, the School of Veterinary Medicine on the Davis campus offers a Bachelor of Science degree.