

May 26, 2015

**Andrè Knoesen**, Chair  
Davis Division of the Academic Senate

Re: Request for Advice from College of Engineering regarding Admit Term (GE2 vs. GE3)

Dear Chair Knoesen,

The College of Engineering Advising Office has stated that it allows transfer students prior to Fall 2013 to use GE2 (**see enclosed letter from Megan Richmond dated March 24, 2015**). The question is whether this aligns with campus GE requirements and policy.

### **Facts**

CERJ confirmed that the College of Engineering Undergraduate Education Policy Committee (UGEP) decided to allow this because otherwise, incoming transfers who started at community college before Fall 2011 and then transferred to UC Davis would not be able to complete their coursework by the normal graduation time if they had to take the GE3 requirements, as they had taken many GE2 courses at the community college before transferring to UC Davis.

### **Appropriate Committee for Decision**

It is unclear whether CERJ, COCI, or GEC should make this call. In the two Official Responses to the College of Engineering from the Academic Senate, both dated May 7, 2012; COCI responds to the requests of the College of Engineering for exceptions.<sup>1</sup> Davis Division Bylaw 56 and Davis Division Regulation 522(D)(9) state that COCI has the responsibility to approve and cancel courses as GE courses, except for those offered through the Education Abroad Program. Davis Division Bylaw 121(C) gives the General Education Committee supervisory authority over the General Education program.

CERJ is providing advice under Davis Division Bylaw 71(B)(5) and 71(B)(6), which gives the responsibility to interpret legislation of the Academic Senate. The GE requirements would seem to fall into this category.

### **CERJ Decision**

The General Education requirements were changed in Fall of 2011. The requirements in effect before the change are called GE2; those that came into effect after the change are called GE3.

First, there is nothing in the Standing Order of the Regents or the University or Davis Division Bylaws or Regulations that explicitly discusses the change from GE2 to GE3. However, there are many statements in the General Education Requirements web page and UC Davis General Catalog, as noted below in Supporting Statements. All state that students who matriculate for the first time in Fall 2011 or later are required to meet GE3.

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<sup>1</sup> Exception Request for GE2 and GE3, May 7, 2012; available at <http://academicssenate.ucdavis.edu/rfc/view.cfm?asr&id=95> and <http://academicssenate.ucdavis.edu/rfc/view.cfm?asr&id=96>.

This suggests that the College of Engineering UGEP committee had no explicit basis in the Divisional Bylaws or Regulations for allowing students admitted between Fall 2011 and Fall 2013 to complete the GE2 requirements rather than the GE3 requirements. Given the reason that UGEP did so, CERJ recommends the following actions:

1. Inform the College of Engineering that, rather than having UGEP decide to adopt an aggressive interpretation of the Davis Division's GE Regulations, it should have notified the Academic Senate of the problem and requested an exception for transfer students admitted in the academic years 2011–2012 and 2012–2013 (specifically, that these students be allowed to meet the GE2 requirements rather than the GE3 requirements). What is going to stop them from doing the same thing for subsequent years?
2. Honor the erroneous advice because the *advisors* were giving students incorrect information. For the University and the College to do otherwise would be unfair to the students.
3. Ensure that COCI and GEC are informed of this situation so that they can work with the College of Engineering going forward.

### Supporting statements

- a. University of California General Education Requirements, Frequently Asked Questions web page: "The new GE requirements will need to be met by all students entering or transferring into UC Davis in Fall 2011 and thereafter. The current GE requirements remain in effect for all students who entered or transferred to UC Davis before Fall 2011."<sup>2</sup> (underlining added). Note the italicized phrase states explicitly that transfers into UC Davis from Fall 2011 or later must meet GE3, not GE2.
- b. UC Davis General Catalog 2014–2015, section General Education Options/Courses, subsection New General Education Courses, Fall 2011 and On: "The following section pertains to students who matriculated to UC Davis for the first time in Fall 2011 or later. Students who matriculated prior to Fall 2011 should refer to the Former General Education Courses; Pre-Fall 2011, on page 577."<sup>3</sup> Again, this states explicitly that anyone who entered UC Davis (whether a transfer or a new admission) from Fall 2011 on must satisfy GE3.
- c. UC Davis General Catalog 2012–2014, Undergraduate Education, subsection General Education Requirement,<sup>4</sup> contains wording that differs only in the page reference to GE2 (here, it is page 99). So it also states explicitly that anyone who entered UC Davis (whether a transfer or a new admission) from Fall 2011 on must satisfy GE3.
- d. UC Davis General Catalog 2010–2012, section Undergraduate Education, subsection General Education Requirement: "The following section pertains to students who matriculated to UC Davis for the first time in Fall 2011 or later. Students who matriculate for the first time in Fall 2011 or later should refer to the Revised General Education (GE)

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<sup>2</sup> <http://ge.ucdavis.edu/faq.htm>

<sup>3</sup> <http://catalog.ucdavis.edu/PDF/14aGenCatGEOpts.pdf>, p. 552.

<sup>4</sup> <http://catalog.ucdavis.edu/upload/GenCatArchive/GenCat20122014.pdf>, p. 97

Requirement, on page 96.”<sup>5</sup> Again, this states explicitly that anyone who enters UC Davis (whether a transfer or a new admission) from Fall 2011 on must satisfy GE3.

- e. The Fall 2011 supplement to the above catalog states: “Transfer students who have not completed the IGETC, and who are not entitled to graduate under the provisions of a *General Catalog* issued prior to Fall 2011 as permitted by the applicable college policy on degree requirement changes, are required to satisfy all General Education components under the revised requirement but may offer previously completed coursework toward their satisfaction.”<sup>6</sup> (underlining added). This means that any transfer student who enters UC Davis from Fall 2011 on must meet GE3, not GE2.

### Other relevant statements

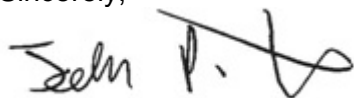
Regulation 36(F) of the Bylaws of the Faculty of the College of Engineering<sup>7</sup> states:

“Students will complete any version of the general education requirement in effect between the time of matriculation and graduation. Readmitted students will complete any version of the general education requirement in effect between the time of readmission and graduation.”

GE2 was in effect prior to Fall 2011, and GE3 thereafter, as noted in the above supporting statements. If a student were admitted (or readmitted) before Fall 2011, and graduated after Fall 2011, then this regulation says the student can complete either GE2 or GE3. This clearly states that, if a student is admitted in Fall 2011 or later, the *only* General Education requirement in effect is GE3. Thus, it does not provide a basis for asserting that students admitted between Fall 2011 and Fall 2013 can satisfy GE2 to meet the general education requirement, because only GE3 is in effect at the time.

As a further note, the basis for this regulation is unclear. It allows students admitted before Fall 2011 and graduating in or after Fall 2011 to use GE3 rather than GE2. This appears to contradict the requirements as stated in the General Education FAQ (see a, above) and in the General Catalogs (see b–e, above). However, this discrepancy is *not* relevant to the question raised about the College of Engineering’s advising, because that deals with using students admitted after Fall 2011 using GE2 to meet the general education requirements, something not allowed by this regulation.

Sincerely,



John Hunt, Chair  
Committee on Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction

Cc: Gina Anderson, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

<sup>5</sup> <http://catalog.ucdavis.edu/upload/GenCatArchive/GenCat20102012.pdf>, p. 95

<sup>6</sup> [http://catalog.ucdavis.edu/upload/GenCatArchive/GenCatSupp20102012/GenCatSupp1012\\_1.8.pdf](http://catalog.ucdavis.edu/upload/GenCatArchive/GenCatSupp20102012/GenCatSupp1012_1.8.pdf), p. 65

<sup>7</sup> [http://academic senate.ucdavis.edu/local\\_resources/docs/committees/cerj/engineering-bylaws-regulations.pdf](http://academic senate.ucdavis.edu/local_resources/docs/committees/cerj/engineering-bylaws-regulations.pdf).

## Kimberly Pulliam

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**From:** Megan Richmond  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 3:19 PM  
**To:** Kimberly Pulliam  
**Subject:** RE: GE 2 vs GE 3

**Categories:** Business

Hi Kimberly,

We would appreciate any guidance you can provide.

Thank,  
--Megan

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Megan Richmond  
Lead Application Developer  
Student Advising  
Student Affairs Office of Technology  
University of California, Davis

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**From:** Edwin M Arevalo  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2015 12:48 PM  
**To:** Megan Richmond  
**Cc:** Kimberly Pulliam  
**Subject:** RE: GE 2 vs GE 3

Hi Megan,  
Sorry for my belated reply; I have been swamped this year. By copy on this message, I am asking my colleague, Kimberly Pulliam, to work with you directly on your request. She supports the Committee on Elections, Rules, and Jurisdictions (CERJ). They are the official body that can interpret the regulations for the Davis Division of the Academic Senate. Please work with her directly to get some CERJ advice on your inquiry.  
Best,  
Edwin

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**From:** Megan Richmond  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 24, 2015 1:51 PM  
**To:** Edwin M Arevalo  
**Subject:** GE 2 vs GE 3

Hi Edwin,

Our team was sent a question from an advisor in Engineering about identifying which "admit term" was the appropriate one to use for a student with multiple admit terms in Banner. The reason this came up, was that the student in question had one admit term being Fall 2012 and the other being Fall 2013. The advising office felt that which GE applied to the student would be determined based on which admit term should be used.

I referred the advisor to the GE website and the statement found there:

“The new GE requirements will need to be met by all students entering or transferring into UC Davis in Fall 2011 and thereafter. The current GE requirements remain in effect for all students who entered or transferred to UC Davis before Fall 2011.”

The advisor wrote back saying that while they thought we weren't the correct group to be asking, their college allowed transfer students prior to Fall 2013 to use GE 2.

Who should we direct the advisor to regarding what GE requirements are appropriate for the student.

Thanks,  
--Megan

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Megan Richmond  
Lead Application Developer  
Student Advising  
Student Affairs Office of Technology  
University of California, Davis