



CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE
RIVERSIDE DIVISION
UNIVERSITY OFFICE BUILDING, RM 225

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Robert Anderson
Professor of Economics and Mathematics
UC Systemwide Academic Senate
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Bob:

RE: A PROPOSAL FOR MAJOR-BASED TRANSFER ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The above proposal for major-based transfer admission to the University of California was reviewed by the College Executive Committees, Undergraduate Admissions, and Committee on Educational Policy. All the committees were supportive of the proposal. Below are substantive comments from several of the committees that reviewed the proposal.

Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE) is supportive of this proposal, in particular the use of standard metrics (e.g. GPA) to help ensure the quality of the entering pool of students. However, the college is concerned that the proposal imposes comprehensive review in a financial environment where the resources are unavailable to support it. BCOE is also concerned that the proposed policy might deliver a misleading message to potential transfer students, specifically that as long as they meet one of the three pathways, they would be admitted to and succeed at UC, which is untrue. The UC materials must emphasize that additional major specific preparation (e.g., mathematics and science) may be required for admission to UC.

The Undergraduate Admissions Committee's major concern with the previous version of the proposal was that it might require departments to change their curricula and admissions requirements to achieve consistency across campuses. The revised proposal has addressed that concern adequately, as it states on page 3, "The proposal also maintains department autonomy and flexibility to list courses and set admissions criteria."

The Committee on Educational Policy is enthusiastic about the prospect of clarifying criteria for transfer into majors, particularly for students transferring into majors and programs with strict unit requirements. Students in these majors often find themselves close to the ceiling of allowable units. These transfer curricula may help students identify classes that will more efficiently transfer into intended majors at the UC and, thereby, keep their undergraduate credits within allowable limits. Like BCOE, CEP members are concerned about the cost of implementation. The proposed approach will require more extensive student advising, starting at least at the community college level and through the transfer process at both institutions, and then at the UC after the student transfers. Students will need to understand these three pathways to transfer early, preferably prior to beginning at a community college. This will require information and advisement and CEP is concerned about effectiveness as well as administrative costs. CEP members also recognize that to the extent the implementation of this proposal helps the UC identify students better prepared for their chosen majors, it may ultimately reduce or mitigate advising

costs. In addition, some CEP members expressed concerns about requiring departments and programs to define transfer requirements and the new encumbrances of faculty time this may entail. On this point, CEP recognizes that the work of the UC Transfer Streamlining Task Force is promising for the eight disciplines represented. Overall, CEP members were optimistic and several members expressed a desire to see these pathways to transfer admission eventually replace other the admission paths that are currently in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Gauvain
Professor of Psychology and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director of the Academic Senate
Sellyna Ehlers, Director of UCR Academic Senate office