



March 26, 2013

TO: JOSE WUDKA, CHAIR
RIVERSIDE DIVISION

FR: WARD BEYERMANN, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SENATE REGULATIONS, INCLUDING SR478 TO
ACCOMMODATE "IGETC FOR STEM MAJORS"

The proposed amendment was circulated to the members of the Committee on Educational Policy. Most of them responded, and there was agreement in favor of adopting this amendment with one abstention. In addition to the approval, the following comments were provided and supported.

1. There were substantive and reasonable objections with the previous one-size-fits all version of IGETC. That policy encouraged Community College students to complete general education courses instead of basic science courses, which are prerequisites for the upper-division curriculum in STEM fields. Transfer students arrived at UCR without the equivalent of a freshman/sophomore preparation and had course loads full of lower-division classes with time-consuming labs. As a consequence many of these students delayed graduation, or even worse, performed poorly in their introductory science classes, forcing them to start over in a new major. In fact, CNAS never accepted the present version of IGETC. The new transfer STEM pathways will likely expect completion of a year of calculus and either a year of college chemistry or physics. This may be difficult to satisfy along with the traditional IGETC requirements within the timeframe a student typically spends at a Community College. The IGETC-for-STEM option seems to allow STEM transfers the flexibility to complete some of the needed STEM prerequisites before transferring. Hopefully, the counseling process at the Community Colleges will adequately advise this group of students who are interested in the STEM pathway.
2. Several members were concerned about removing the clause prohibiting the use of remedial composition courses for the English Composition requirement. The consequences of this action are uncertain, and without adequate justification, the clause should remain.
3. Finally, there appears to be a typographical error in Section D.2.b. The first sentence should read "A transfer student intending to major in a science, engineering, or mathematics program that recognizes IGETC as satisfying the B/GE requirements ..." since it's the program, not the student, that recognizes IGETC.