

UC RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA | **Academic Senate**
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION

May 12, 2016

To: Jose Wudka
Chair, Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: John W. Cioffi 
Chair, Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

Re: Campus Review: Regulation Change to Grading System - R1.3.2 SN/C

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction has reviewed the proposal to amend R1.3.2 governing the use of SN/C units to satisfy graduate coursework requirements. We find that the proposed amendment is consistent with the Division Bylaws and therefore approve it for full consideration by the Senate.

In fact, we welcome this amendment because, assuming it is approved by the Senate, it will help to resolve an ambiguity in the scope of the Graduate Council's authority. In conducting our review, R&J discovered that the bylaws defining the Graduate Council's jurisdiction and responsibilities do not confer authority to set grading and coursework standards. The role defined is consultative and supervisory, coupled with the power to make recommendations regarding graduate programs and courses. This does not pose a problem with respect to the present matter because the Senate is clearly empowered to adopt such regulations. But this is a piecemeal resolution, and if the Council has similar policies in place there may be grounds for dispute in the future.

Therefore, we advise the Graduate Council to propose an amendment to the bylaws that explicitly grant it the authority to oversee and set general policies governing graduate coursework requirements. We offer no opinion regarding the precise scope of this authority and whether or not these policies must be approved in advance by the Senate. Our objective here is to clarify the rules and preclude any potential disputes regarding the Council's role and powers.