

January 12, 2017

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Thomas Stahovich, Chair   
Executive Committee, Bourns College of Engineering

RE: Proposal to allow enrollment in research and internship courses for zero units

The BCOE Executive Committee reviewed the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education's proposal to allow enrollment in research and internship courses for zero units. The Committee believes that this approach is not the best method to achieve the intended goals. For example, a more effective solution would be a simple website which allows faculty to document research involvement of students. Such a website would not be limited by the constraints of scheduled course registration periods, allowing students to join research activities in the middle of a term, for example. Additionally, a special-purpose website could also allow for a more accurate record of the time a student is engaged in research. Finally, there was a concern that a zero-unit class in which students conducted research might violate senate regulation 760 stating that "The value of a course in units shall be reckoned at the rate of one unit for three hours' work per week per term on the part of a student, or the equivalent."