February 8, 2010

To: Daniel Ozer, Secretary-Parliamentarian
   Riverside Division

From: Marylynn V. Yates
       Chair

RE: Proposed Regulation Change

Attached is a proposal to change Regulation 6.4.4, submitted by the CNAS Executive Committee. Please place it on the agenda for the March 4, 2010 Division meeting.
To Be Adopted:

Proposed Change to Regulation 6.4.4: Campus Graduation Requirements

PRESENT:  PROPOSED:

R6.4.4 Concentration Option: Starting in Fall, 2009, the following concentrations are being offered as an alternative breadth requirement. (En 17 Feb 09 and 19 May 09)

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This option is not available to students in CNAS.

Justification:
The current regulation on alternative concentration requirements was passed by Division vote, despite the fact that the CNAS Executive Committee had not approved of the curricular change as required under Bylaw 10. In fact, as stated in the attached letter from CNAS Chair Marylynn Yates to the Committee on Educational Policy, the CNAS Executive Committee voted to reject the proposal. There is currently no means to challenge legislation after it has been adopted by a vote by the Division, even if that vote was improper under the Bylaws. The proposed revision to Regulation 6.4.4, exempting CNAS from the regulation creating the alternative concentrations, is justified as a means to remedy the violation of legislative procedure that resulted in the adoption of the current Regulation 6.4.4 and its inclusion in the General Catalog.

Reviewed by:

Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction 2/5/2010
April 20, 2009

To: George Haggerty, Chair Designate
General Education Advisory Committee

From: Marylynn V. Yates
Chair

RE: General Education Concentration Approvals

On April 15, the CNAS Executive Committee discussed the “Climate Change/Sustainability” and “California” concentrations proposed by the General Education Advisory Committee. The Committee is generally supportive of the principle of providing students with an opportunity to satisfy their breadth requirements in a more focused manner than is done currently. However, with respect to the specific courses proposed for the two concentrations presented, the Committee had a number of concerns, many of which are consistent with those expressed in our memo of October 2008 regarding the concept of the General Education Reforms. Specifically:

- Students who opt into one of the concentration areas may be exposed to a very narrow view of certain subjects. For example, rather than world history, a student in the “California concentration” would only learn California history.
- The coverage of “core” subject areas varies widely among the different concentrations. For example, there is no mathematics course required in the Climate Change concentration.
- Students who do not complete the entire series of courses would have to meet the general breadth requirements of the appropriate College; this might result in a student having to take extra courses, as not all of the “concentration courses” would meet the College breadth requirements.

To address the third point, this Committee suggests that the concentrations be structured in a manner that is consistent with the Colleges’ requirements for general education courses. For example, CNAS requires all students who are pursuing a B.S. degree to complete 12 units in each of the humanities and social sciences. For each concentration, list those courses that the student could take to fulfill each of those requirements. We believe that this would greatly simplify matters – it would be clear to the students, faculty, and advisors exactly what courses fulfill which requirements. It would also likely increase the attractiveness of the concentrations to the students, as it would be clear that they would still be fulfilling their general education requirements by taking these classes, even if they later decide not to complete the concentration. The concentrations
could then be added to the catalog as “concentrations”, and wouldn’t require a change in the general education requirements of each College.

The vote to approve the Climate Change/Sustainability” and “California” concentrations as written was: 0 in favor, 10 opposed, 0 abstained.