June 8, 2020

To: Kim A. Wilcox, Chancellor
    Thomas M. Smith, Interim Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor
    Brian L. Haynes, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
    Jennifer L. Brown, Vice Provost & Dean for Undergraduate Education
    Shaun Bowler, Dean of the Graduate Division
    Bracken Dailey, Registrar

From: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
    Riverside Division

Cc. Anil Deolalikar, Dean, School of Public Policy
    Kathryn Uhrich, Dean, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
    Christopher Lynch, Dean, Bourns College of Engineering
    Deborah Deas, Dean, School of Medicine
    Louis Rodriguez, Interim Dean, Graduate School of Education
    Milagros Pena, Dean, College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
    Yunzeng Wang, Dean, School of Business
    Emily Engelschall, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services and Director of Undergraduate Admissions
    Kara Oswood, Director of Specific Programs
    Leonard Taylor, Director of Summer Sessions
    Cherysa Cortez, Director, Academic Senate
    Academic Senate Analysts

Re: Extension and Enactment of COVID-19 Temporary Modification or Suspension of Senate Regulations and/or Policies Through Summer 2020

During their June 8, 2020 meeting, Executive Council voted in lieu of the Division to extend or enact the below listed COVID-19 temporary modifications to Senate regulations and/or policies through Summer 2020. Please disseminate this information as appropriate.

Senate Regulation R1.1.4.
A student may drop a course without prior approval no later than the end of the second full week of instruction. For Spring 2020, from the third week of instruction through the grade submission deadline, a course may be dropped with the approval of the advisor. Any course drop in Spring 2020 which would reduce the undergraduate student's academic load to less than 12 units must be approved by the Dean. For Summer 2020, after the initial drop period, a course may be dropped with the approval of the advisor through the grade submission deadline of the corresponding summer 2020 session. (En 5 May
Senate Regulation R1.1.5.

Senate Regulation R1.1.6.
The final date to petition for conversion from letter grade to S/NC or vice versa will be the end of the Spring 2020 term (quarter) or Summer 2020 session. (En 5 May 77; Am 25 May 89) (COVID-19 Temp Modification 3 June 2020 – extended 8 June 2020)

Senate Regulation R1.8.1
The instructor in charge of an undergraduate course shall be responsible for assigning the final grade in the course. The final grade shall reflect the student's achievement in the course and shall be based upon adequate evaluation of that achievement. The instructor's methods of evaluation must be clearly announced during the progress of the course. Evaluation methods must be of reasonable duration and difficulty and must be in accord with applicable departmental policies. The methods may include a final written examination, a term paper, a final oral examination, a take-home examination, or other evaluation device. If a final written examination is given, it shall not exceed three hours' duration. (COVID-19 Temp. Modification 12 Mar 2020 – extended 8 June 2020)

Senate Regulation R1.2.2
Students enrolled in any undergraduate degree program may receive credit for courses undertaken and graded S on the Riverside campus to a limit of one-third of the total units undertaken and passed on the Riverside campus at the time the degree is awarded. Spring Quarter of 2020 will not count towards this limit. Units completed on another campus of the University by a Riverside undergraduate student enrolled as an intercampus visitor are considered Riverside work for the purposes of this regulation. (COVID-19 Temp. Modification 12 Mar 2020) (COVID-19 Temp. Modification 31 Mar 2020 – extended 8 June 2020)

Senate Graduate Regulation GR1.5.7
Courses may be dropped at any time prior to the end of the fifth week of instruction. If the adviser or instructor withholds approval of a petition to drop a course, the student may appeal to the Graduate Dean. In Spring 2020, a graduate student may drop a course before the end of the eighth full week and no indication will be entered on the permanent transcript. (COVID-19 Temp Modification 6 April – extended 8 June 2020)

Exception for Applicants to be considered for Admission by Exception (AxE) without Faculty Special Review Committee (SRC) Evaluation for Fall 2020 Cohort. Extended 8 June 2020. Attached.

Instructional Guidance Specific to Graduate Education. Extended 8 June 2020.
Excerpted from correspondence from Interim Provost Smith and Senate Chair Rodriguez on March 10, 2020, “Senate follow up on ‘COVID-19: Important instructional continuity guidance’.

Beginning March 10, 2020 until the resumption of in-person course instruction, Oral Qualifying Exams and Dissertation/Thesis Defenses may be held entirely via videoconference, temporarily suspending current Graduate Council policy which limits this form of participation to one committee member. All committee members must be present on the videoconference for the entirety of the Exam or Defense. The Graduate Council policy to be temporarily suspended reads as follows:

- "For both the PhD Oral Qualifying Exam and Dissertation/Thesis Defense all committee members must be physically present. If that is not possible, ONE member of the examining committee may participate remotely (e.g. Skype or other video conferencing technology)."

2. Beginning March 10, 2020 until the resumption of in-person course instruction, Graduate Division will temporarily accept alternative documentation of Oral Qualifying Exam results and Dissertation/Thesis Defense approvals. Under current policy, Graduate Division requires original ("wet") signatures on Qualifying Exam and Dissertation/Thesis documents. During this exceptional period, Graduate Division will permit certification of such outcomes via 1) committee member emails sent from an official UCR account supplemented by 2) committee members’ scanned or electronic signatures.
April 21, 2020

To: Dylan Rodríguez, Chair
    Riverside Division

From: Sheldon Tan, Chair
    Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Re: Proposed Exception for Applicants to be considered for Admission by Exception (AxE) without Faculty Special Review Committee (SRC) Evaluation for Fall 2020 Cohort

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions has been informed by the office of Undergraduate Admissions that a pool of approximately 15-20 Fall 2020 applicants who are 1) part of the Admissions Preparation Program (APP) and 2) student-athletes, did not have the opportunity to take the SAT or ACT, a requirement for admission. The inability of students to take these exams is a result of test cancellations beginning in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The SAT will not be administered again until August 2020 at the earliest.

Under the current Senate approved Admission by Exception Guidelines, UCR faculty has delegated authority to the office of Undergraduate Admissions to admit several categories of students by exception. However, under the current Admission by Exception Guidelines if a student is missing standardized tests, the student is required to be reviewed by the Special Review Committee (SRC) for admission consideration, which is very time consuming and is not intended for such review tasks.

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions discussed this issue at their April 17, 2020 meeting and noted that the cancellation of the tests due to COVID-19 is beyond students’ control. The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions voted to support a proposal to allow a standardized test exception for the Fall 2020 cohort of applicants for APP and student-athlete students to be considered for admission under the Admission by Exception Guidelines without SRC Review; therefore, delegating the authority for these admission by exception decisions to the office of Undergraduate Admissions.

The Committee’s justification for this proposal is that applicants with otherwise strong records, should not be penalized for their inability to take standardized tests due to COVID-19.

Definitions of Populations Noted Above

Admissions Preparation Program
APP is a pipeline program developed in partnership with UCR University Extension. Students admitted into the program are those who are strong academically, however have not yet taken the SAT and/or need additional English language preparation. These students, through the currently approved Senate approved AxE guidelines, are permitted to take the SAT after high-school graduation and are admitted, with test scores, without SRC review.

Student-Athletes
There are several student-athletes currently in the pipeline for admission consideration, who have not taken the SAT to date, however are now pursuing admission to UCR.

cc Emily Engelschall, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Services and Director of Undergraduate Admissions
Cherysa Cortez, Director, Academic Senate
To Be Adopted

Proposed Changes to GR5.4

PRESENT

GR5.4 Transfer from UCR Extension - Students may transfer up to 8-units of UCR Extension concurrent enrollment credit. Students must have taken these units before their enrollment as a graduate student. Matriculated graduate students (including students on Leave of Absence) may not enroll in course work through UCR Extension without the Graduate Dean’s approval. Graduate students who withdraw before completing their program objectives may then take courses through UCR Extension, but are required to wait one year before applying those courses to their degrees. Grades from UCR Extension will be recorded on UCR transcripts. If a student transfers 8-units from UCR Extension, they are eligible to transfer an additional 8-units from an outside institution.

PROPOSED

GR5.4 Transfer from UCR Extension - Students may transfer up to 8-units of UCR Extension concurrent enrollment credit. Students may transfer up to 8-units of UCR Extension concurrent enrollment credit. Up to 12 units are permitted to be transferred if taken prior to Fall 2021.

Students must have taken these units before their enrollment as a graduate student. Matriculated graduate students (including students on Leave of Absence) may not enroll in course work through UCR Extension without the Graduate Dean’s approval. Graduate students who withdraw before completing their program objectives may then take courses through UCR Extension, but are required to wait one year before applying those courses to their degrees. Grades from UCR Extension will be recorded on UCR transcripts. If a student transfers 8-units from UCR Extension, they are eligible to transfer an additional 8-units from an outside institution.

Statement of Purpose and Effect:

Currently the rule is that students can transfer at most 8 units from extension classes to satisfy requirement for a graduate degree e.g. MS

I am requesting that we lift this restriction for AY 20/21 in line with the suggestion of the BCOE Executive Committee (memo dated July 24 2020)

The justification for the request is related to Fall 2020 likely being on-line instruction rather than in-person as well as on-going interruptions to international travel, and is mostly an issue of relevance to MS students who pay their own tuition (i.e. are an important source of revenue as well as being an integral component to the graduate student population).
Programs are facing especially great challenges recruiting international students in this current situation. It seems likely that many international students who wish to attend UCR may not be able to enter the US. The provision of on-line courses is a response to this situation. But cost is a concern - especially for MA/MS students who pay their own tuition. For international students and out of state students this means they will be asked to pay tuition + NRT for an on-line experience.

Programs - especially those in BCOE - are concerned that this cost will be a serious deterrent to student enrollment (see, for example, their July 24 memo)

If students are allowed to take on-line Fall courses via Extension then their fees for that quarter will be much lower. Students can then transfer units over to the program when (we think) in-person instruction resumes in January. In this way, enrollment can be maintained.

An 8 unit cap, however, means students cannot transfer in a quarter’s full load of credit and so will extend time to degree (and cost).

Submitted by Shaun Bowler, Graduate Dean (8/14/2020)

Approvals

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction finds the wording to be consistent with the code of the Academic Senate: August 17, 2020

Approved by Executive Council in Lieu of the Division: August 24, 2020