



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

MEMORANDUM

To: Praveen Soni, Chair, Academic Senate

From: David G. Huckaby, Chair, Curriculum and Educational Policies Council

Date: 6 May 2008

Re: Engineering waiver of GE requirements

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David G. Huckaby", with a large flourish extending from the end of the signature.

During its meeting on 30 April 2008, the Curriculum and Educational Policies Council voted to recommend to the Academic Senate a waiver of some of the GE requirements for most of the majors in the College of Engineering. Although the waiver, as stated, does not specify this, the waiver is only for the high unit programs that currently require more than 120 units for graduation. As such, the B. S. in Engineering Technology, Option in Technology and Engineering Education, and the newly approved B. A. in Engineering would not qualify. Although no one to whom we talked could locate any document to that effect, engineering students have had a six-unit waiver of GE units for many years on this campus. The only written statement concerning it available to the council was the form from Enrollment Services that engineering students use to declare the waiver. (We found the form somewhat confusing and intend to work with Enrollment Services to improve it.) In addition to specifically excluding the engineering technology program mentioned above, it excludes the computer science program. We understand that the reason for this is that, at the time of the original waiver, which was probably in the early 1980's, the computer science program was an option in the B. S. in Mathematics and not in engineering. I note in passing that the B. S. in Computer Engineering, which has the waiver, requires a minimum of 128 units; whereas, the B. S. in Computer Science, which does not, requires a minimum of 130 units.

The statement voted on by the council reads: "for students under the 2008 GE pattern, engineering majors may waive up to three units from the B.1.a., C.3., or D.2. categories." Although earlier versions of the waiver differed in this regard, the current waiver for students under the 2006 and later catalogs allows it only in those three categories. The information before the council suggests that the vast majority of students electing this waiver will do so for the first of the three possible categories, as most engineering majors do not have a biology course as a requirement. All those majors have as part of their major requirements at least 15 units of courses that also count in the B category. Those students majoring in one of the programs that do require a biology course would have to opt for one of the other two categories.

The new GE requirements without any additional waiver should not require any engineering major to take more total units to graduate than is now required. Currently, most engineering majors must take only 45 total units of GE. Under the new GE pattern and without the additional three-unit waiver, these engineering majors would have to take 48 total units of GE, although at least three more of these units would now overlap with major requirements. If they get the three unit waiver, these students would have to take only 45 total units of GE and have three units deducted from the total number of units required to obtain their degrees. All of the

degree programs in this college, other than the one in the BA mentioned above, are in the Bachelor of Science, which may require from 120-132 units. Only if the required courses in the major plus those GE courses not also required in the major exceed 120 units will these degree programs require a minimum of more than 120 units. (The other two degrees with programs at CSULB, the Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Fine Arts, each require a minimum of 132 units regardless of how many units are required in the major, which may not exceed 70.)



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MEMORANDUM

To: Praveen Soni, Chair, Academic Senate

From: David G. Huckaby, Chair, Curriculum and Educational Policies Council

Date: 6 May 2008

Re: Revision of PS 04-06, GVAR policy

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David G. Huckaby", with a large flourish at the end.

During its meeting on 30 April 2008, the Curriculum and Educational Policies Council voted to recommend to the Academic Senate that substantial changes be made to this policy statement. The GVAR Committee worked on these changes for some time first; the council's revisions are in addition to those suggested by the committee. Linda Sarbo, the GVAR Coordinator, prepared the revisions suggested by the committee. Throughout, she used Track Changes in Word to indicate all changes, no matter how trivial, and used footnotes to explain each substantive and many non-substantive changes. I followed her lead; senators can determine which body made a change by referring to the footnotes. In addition, because the footnotes provide all the necessary explanation for most of the suggested changes, I have not provided additional explanations.

In keeping with the current practice of not having the charge to a senate committee or council written as part of a policy statement, the council voted to separate out that part of PS 04-06 as two separate documents. Because the council has not yet finished with them, they are not forwarded to the senate yet. To avoid long passages shown as simply crossed out, I did not show their deletion in Track Changes.



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MEMORANDUM

To: Praveen Soni, Chair, Academic Senate

From: David G. Huckaby, Chair, Curriculum and Educational Policies Council

Date: 6 May 2008

Re: Option in Applied Statistics

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "David G. Huckaby", with a long, sweeping flourish extending downwards and to the right.

During its meeting on 30 April 2008, the Curriculum and Educational Policies Council voted to recommend to the Academic Senate that the Department of Mathematics and Statistics be allowed to change this option in the M. S. in Mathematics to a full degree program with the title of M. S. in Applied Statistics. Although this program is not very old, it already enrolls numerous students. The department presented evidence from potential employers that the careers of its graduates would probably be enhanced by this name change, as it would suggest more of a full degree program in statistics than simply an option in mathematics with some statistics training. The evidence suggests that the program is, in fact, already of this type. Some on the council commended the department for its well-written proposal, which includes a plan for assessment of this degree program.