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March 14, 2008

ROBERT C. DYNES, PRESIDENT
WYATT R. HUME, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Re: Repeal of Senate Regulation 458

Dear Bob and Rory:

At its February 20, 2008 teleconference, the Academic Assembly approved the repeal of [Senate Regulation \(SR\) 458](#), which allows graduates of certain schools and colleges in China and Japan to meet course requirements for UC admission by substituting a satisfactory course in the history of their own country for United States history, as well as satisfactory courses in Asian law, language, and literature for the matriculation requirement in English. In repealing this regulation, the Assembly has acted in accordance with Senate Bylaw 116, Authority of the Assembly – Part II.E., “The Assembly is authorized to approve modifications to the University Academic Senate legislation. . . . Except for Bylaws marked “[Protected – See Bylaw 166.E]”. . . modification of Regulations requires the approval of a majority of all voting members of the Assembly present. . . . Modification of legislation shall take effect immediately following approval unless a different date is specified or required.”

The proposal to repeal SR 458, originally introduced by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS), received unanimous support among the responding system-wide committees and divisions, which noted that such a change is sensible. The University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction has found the request to repeal SR 458 to be consonant with the Code of the Academic Senate, and the Academic Council also endorsed the repeal of SR 458 at its January 23, 2008 meeting. The justification for the repeal is based on the fact that SR 458, as currently written, provides guidance for the use of alternate means to fulfill the University’s subject (‘a-g’) requirements for freshman admission but does so too narrowly: applying specifically to graduates of schools in China and Japan. The regulation’s specificity is also problematic. Finally, the existing regulation’s lack of clarity regarding the use of courses in law, language and literature has resulted in inconsistency and confusion across campuses in its implementation over time.

Please inform the relevant staff and officers in those units associated with UC admissions at both the Office of the President and the campuses about the repeal of SR 458. For your reference, I have enclosed BOARS' complete justification for the repeal of this regulation. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael".

Michael T. Brown, Chair
Assembly of the Academic Senate

Copy: Assembly
María Bertero-Barceló, Senate Director

Encl: 1

PROPOSAL TO REPEAL ACADEMIC SENATE REGULATION 458

The following proposed repeal of Senate Regulation 458 was approved by the BOARS Articulation and Evaluation Subcommittee at its April 23, 2007 meeting, and subsequently unanimously approved by BOARS at its May 4, 2007 meeting.

In accordance with Senate Bylaw 116 (Authority of the Assembly – Part II. E.), the Assembly of the Academic Senate must approve any modifications to Universitywide Academic Senate legislation. Amendments to Senate Regulations, as well as enactment and repeal of regulations, require the approval of a majority of all voting members of the Assembly present. Modifications of legislation take effect immediately following approval unless a different date is specified or required.

PRESENT WORDING

458.

Graduates of approved schools and colleges in China and Japan are allowed to substitute a satisfactory course in the history of their own country for United States history, and also to substitute satisfactory courses in Asian law, language, and literature for the matriculation requirements in English. Such concessions will be granted only to those who furnish properly endorsed official records of their work in China and Japan, and whose work in other departments of study satisfies the requirements for admission.

PROPOSED ACTION: Approval of the repeal of Senate Regulation 458.

JUSTIFICATION

Academic Senate Regulation 458 (SR 458) pertains to the undergraduate admission of candidates other than graduates of California secondary schools. The regulation, as currently written, provides guidance for the use of alternate means to fulfill the University's subject ('a-g') requirements for freshman admission and applies specifically to graduates of schools in China and Japan.

Over time, questions have arisen regarding the narrowness of the regulation, in that it applies to students from China and Japan only. In addition, the existing regulation's lack of clarity regarding the use of courses in law, language and literature has resulted in inconsistency and confusion across campuses related to the implementation of the regulation.

The Academic Senate and UCOP Undergraduate Admissions offices have not been able to locate background information that supports the original intent of the faculty regarding SR 458, nor has the date for the approval of this regulation been found. It is presumed that the regulation was written at a time when the profile of and admissions practices for international students was quite different than it is today.

Currently campuses apply a broad interpretation of the regulation as it pertains to the fulfillment of the University's History/Social Sciences ('a') admissions subject requirement. Generally, history or geography courses completed in the home country of *any* international applicant will be used in satisfaction of the 'a' requirement. Further, it is common practice for campuses to use appropriate academic coursework, when available, or alternate means of assessment that have been approved by the local ministries of education, in fulfillment of other subject ('a-g') requirements. For example, students who have completed their

secondary education under a British system of education may fulfill their subject ('a-g') requirements with appropriate examination scores on "A" and "O" level examinations. It also is the case that in some subject areas, and especially in Visual and Performing Arts ('f') subject, UC requirements may not be a part of the secondary school curriculum. In these cases, campus admissions staff must exercise flexibility in the review of an applicant's preparation for study at the University of California.

The prescriptive nature of SR 458, as it applies to the completion of the University's freshman admissions subject ('a-g') requirements for international students, is a policy anomaly and has been superseded in practice. Current practice involves a careful matching of the academic course of study available to the student in his or her home country to the University's subject ('a-g') requirements for freshman admission to the extent that is possible. Selection for admission is then based on achievement in this coursework in accordance with Academic Senate-approved University admissions policy and guidelines.

BOARS and the BOARS Articulation and Evaluation Subcommittee recommend that Senate Regulation 458 be repealed.