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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

February 22, 2018

JANET NAPOLITANO, PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Assembly Approval of Revisions to Senate Regulation 424.A.3 (Area “d” Freshman Admission Requirement)

Dear Janet:

At its February 14, 2018 meeting, the Assembly of the Academic Senate, on the recommendation of the Academic Council, approved [revisions to Senate Regulation 424.A.3](#) related to the area “d” (laboratory science) requirement for freshman admission. The revisions were proposed by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) and underwent a [systemwide Academic Senate review](#) in fall 2017. The Assembly vote was 29 in favor and 6 opposed.

In accordance with Regents Standing Order 105.2 (a), delegating authority over admissions to the Academic Senate, the Academic Senate recommends to the Board of Regents a conforming change to their Policy on Undergraduate Admissions Requirements ([Policy 2103](#)). In my capacity as the Chair of the Assembly, and in light of the Regents’ expectation, I forward this proposal to you, both in your capacity as the President of the University and as President of the Assembly, for conveyance to the Regents for consideration at their May 2017 meeting.

The revisions are detailed in the links below. They increase the existing minimum area “d” requirement from 2 units (3 units currently are recommended) to 3 units, while continuing to require 2 units of coursework that “provide basic knowledge in at least two of the fundamental disciplines of biology, chemistry, and physics”. The amendments also change the name of the area “d” requirement from “Laboratory Science” to “Science” to reflect the broader range of science disciplines to be accepted for the third unit under area “d” henceforth. The changes will affect students entering high school in fall 2019 (i.e., college freshmen entering UC in fall 2023).

The revisions aim to better align UC’s expectations for science preparation with impending changes to high school science curricula based on California’s adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) for K-12 in September 2013, the new three- and four-course models CA public high schools will move to under the NGSS, and its four new Science categories – Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Earth and Space Sciences, and Engineering, Technology and Applications of Science. Revisions to the area “d” course criteria posted in the [A-G Guide](#) will include specific

examples of courses that could fulfill the requirements not explicitly mentioned in the Senate regulations.

The revised policy will help increase academic preparation, science literacy, and science course options for all students, and connect the University's academic preparation expectations more closely with the curriculum reform efforts well underway in California high schools.

For your reference, the full systemwide review item can be found here:

<http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/underreview/Senate-Review-proposed-revisions-SR424.pdf>

The Assembly item can be found here:

<http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/assembly/assembly-2-14-18-agenda.pdf>

Thank you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shane N. White". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font and is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Shane N. White, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Provost Brown
Academic Council
Senate Director Baxter
Senate Executive Directors