



Kum-Kum Bhavnani
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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*

January 14, 2020

MICHAEL T. BROWN
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Approval of Master of Data Science (MDS) at UCI

Dear Michael,

In accordance with the *Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units* (the "Compendium"), and on the recommendation of CCGA, the Academic Council has approved UC Irvine's proposal to establish a Master of Data Science self-supporting graduate and professional degree program (SSGPDP).

Because this is a new degree title, and the Assembly of the Academic Senate is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA's approval, Council must approve the program per Senate Bylaw 125.B.7.

I am enclosing CCGA's report on its review of the new program, and respectfully request that your office complete the process of obtaining the President's approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kum-Kum Bhavnani".

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
UCI Assistant Senate Director Anzivino
IRAP Analyst Procello
CCGA Analyst Harms



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Chair
ramesh@ucmerced.edu

ACADEMIC SENATE

University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

December 12, 2019

KUM-KUM BHAVNANI, ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR

Dear Dr. Kum-Kum,

At its December 4 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) voted 9-0-1 to approve a new Master of Data Science self-supporting graduate degree program on the Irvine campus.

This terminal degree program will be administered by the Departments of Statistics and Computer Science in the Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences. The Program will offer high-performing graduates and working professionals the opportunity for efficient and effective graduate-level training in the emerging discipline of Data Science. This will be a 15-month professional master's program for graduates with a Bachelor's degree in Data Science, Computer Science, Statistics, Engineering or other relevant majors. The program will be staffed by faculty in the Departments of Statistics and Computer Science, and the planned curriculum will be formed from the expertise of the faculty in the two departments. Students in the program will benefit from wide-ranging yet complementary areas of faculty specialization, including probability and mathematical statistics, statistical modeling and computing, machine learning, data management and visualization, and artificial intelligence.

CCGA members commented that the responses and amendments from UC Irvine faculty proposing the Master of Data Science SSGDP materially addressed prior concerns and suggestions. In particular, the increased targets for domestic and Californian student recruitment to the program, and greater financial support for domestic students, allayed concerns that the program would not provide opportunities for Californian students with diverse backgrounds to benefit from the program in an area with significant demand. Increased faculty FTE in the two bylaw units supporting the program, along with clarifications regarding the structure of the capstone project, also reassured CCGA members that the new SSGDP would not impact resources available for existing state supported programs.

As you know, CCGA's approval is the last stop of the Academic Senate side of the Systemwide review and approval process except when the new degree title must be approved by the President, under delegated authority from The Board of Regents. I submit this for your review and have enclosed the Lead Reviewer's report. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions regarding the proposal.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Balasubramaniam', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ramesh Balasubramaniam
CCGA Chair

cc: Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair
Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair
CCGA Members
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director
Michael LaBriola, Academic Senate Associate Director
Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst
Gillian Hayes, UC Irvine Graduate Dean
Gina Anzivino, UCI Senate Assistant Director
Thao Nguyen, UCI Senate Analyst
Bin Nan, Professor, UCI Department of Statistics
Daniel Gillen, UCI Chair and Professor, Department of Statistics

Final report:

CCGA members commented that the responses and amendments from UC Irvine faculty proposing the Master of Data Science SSGDP materially addressed prior concerns and suggestions. In particular, the increased targets for domestic and Californian student recruitment to the program, and greater financial support for domestic students, allayed concerns that the program would not provide opportunities for Californian students with diverse backgrounds to benefit from the program in an area with significant demand. Increased faculty FTE in the two bylaw units supporting the program, along with clarifications regarding the structure of the capstone project, also reassured CCGA members that the new SSGDP would not impact resources available for existing state supported programs. The proposal was unanimously approved.

regards,

LeRoy