



Kum-Kum Bhavnani
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*Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
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June 1, 2020

ACADEMIC SENATE DIVISION CHAIRS

Re: Temporary Waiver of Senate Regulation 636.C

Dear Colleagues:

The Academic Council has endorsed the enclosed letter from the University Committee on Preparation Education (UCOPE) requesting a one-time waiver of Senate Regulation 636.C for the 2020-2021 academic year due to ongoing COVID-19 disruptions. SR 636.C outlines ways that a student may satisfy the UC Entry Level Writing Requirement, including by passing the UC Analytical Writing Placement Examination (AWPE).

You will recall that on March 12, UCOPE announced the cancellation of the May 9 in person administration of the AWPE, and asked campuses to develop a local plan to address student placement into appropriate writing classes/programs. It was recently announced that an online administration of the AWPE would be offered on June 20. We understand that some campuses may have already developed alternative testing and placement options based on the March UCOPE letter. The attached confirms that incoming first-year students and current students during the 2020-2021 academic year may fulfill the ELWR with these local campus alternatives, or the AWPE.

I ask Senate Division Chairs to send the document to your respective Committees on Education Policy/Undergraduate Councils for follow up. Council would also appreciate receiving a brief summary of campus plans.

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

Sincerely,



Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

Cc: UCOPE
Senate Directors
Director of Undergraduate Admission Yoon-Wu
Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Academic Senate



*Darlene Francis, Chair
University Committee on Preparatory Education
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May 13, 2020

**KUM-KUM BHAVNANI, CHAIR
ACADEMIC SENATE**

RE: ONE-TIME WAIVER OF SENATE REGULATION 636.C DUE TO COVID-19

Dear Kum-Kum:

The Committee on Preparatory Educations requests that Academic Council approve a one-time waiver of Senate Regulation 636.C effective for the 2020-2021 academic year due to the on-going disruptions related to the COVID-19 health crisis.

As a result of the pandemic, the annual in-person administration of the systemwide Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) scheduled for May 2020 was cancelled. This collective decision was made by Undergraduate Admissions, UCOPE and the AWPE sub-committee leadership in mid-March (see the announcement [here](#)). At present, it is not known if Undergraduate Admissions will be able to offer the AWPE online in a timeframe that will meet the needs of the campuses (although strong efforts are devoted to making this happen). In the absence of a systemwide solution, the number of students who would need to be tested by the campuses would increase from roughly 4,000 to approximately 16,000.

Given this uncertainty and the unexpected burden facing the campuses, UCOPE believes it is appropriate to provide campuses with the flexibility to utilize an alternative placement mechanism. Indeed, in the March memo we asked campuses to consider and prepare alternative placement options given the uncertainties surrounding the AWPE. We therefore request Academic Council's approval of a one-time waiver of Senate Regulation 636.C for the 2020-2021 academic year, allowing for all incoming first-year students and current students during the 2020-2021 academic year to fulfill the ELWR with local campus alternatives, or the AWPE. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Francis".

Darlene Francis,
Chair, University Committee on Preparatory Education