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Assembly of the Academic Senate
Academic Council
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October 16, 2007

**SYSTEM-WIDE SENATE COMMITTEE CHAIRS
DIVISION CHAIRS**

RE: System-wide Review of the Proposal to Repeal [Academic Senate Regulation 458](#)

Dear System-wide Senate Committee and Division Chairs:

On behalf of Chair Michael T. Brown, please find attached a proposal to repeal Senate Regulation (SR) 458, which is being forwarded for your review and comments. As background information, in June 2007, the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) submitted for Council's consideration a proposal to repeal SR 458. SR 458 states:

“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.”

BOARS' justification for this request is based, in part, on the fact that 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.”

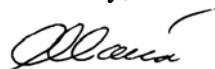
The Academic Council approved to send out the proposal to rescind SR 458 for systemwide review. Once the review is completed, and if based on the responses, the Academic Council endorses the repeal of SR 458, then the recommendation will be forwarded to the Assembly for final action. In order to finalize action during this academic year, we are requesting responses by the dates indicated below.

For **System-wide Senate Committees** please submit responses by **November 26, 2007**
For **Divisions** please submit responses by: **December 21, 2007**

As a reminder to System-wide Senate Committee Chairs, please note two points regarding the practice the Academic Council has established for general reviews:

1. **Request for comments are sent out to all System-wide Committees. Each committee may decide whether or not to opine.** Please notify the Senate Office either directly by emailing me or through your Committee Analyst, if your committee chooses not to participate in this review.
2. **The Committee response due date is typically set a month before that of Divisions.** This two-stage review allows the Academic Council to conduct both a preliminary and a final discussion of the matter at hand. It also gives the Divisions the benefit of the committees' considerations for their own deliberations.

Cordially,



María Bertero-Barceló, Executive Director
Academic Senate

Encl: 1

Copy: Academic Council Chair Michael T. Brown
Divisional Senate Directors
Academic Senate Committee Analysts

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.