

May 5, 2021

To: Shane White, Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

From: Megan McEvoy, Chair, Undergraduate Council

Re: Systemwide Senate Review: Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 610 (Residency)

At its meeting on April 30, 2021, the Undergraduate Council reviewed the proposed revision to Senate Regulation 610 (Residency).

Members appreciated the revision's clarification that residency is not defined by physical presence on campus, but rather enrollment in courses created through the Divisional course approval process. However, members expressed concern that this definition of residency, combined with the anticipated increase in the number of online courses offered post-COVID-19 pandemic, could allow students to complete a UCLA degree without ever setting foot on campus. In other words, this policy could unintentionally permit a fully online undergraduate degree without carefully considering the implications.

Earlier this year, Divisions and systemwide committees were invited to comment on the UC Academic Council Online Undergraduate Degree Task Force Report. UC Academic Senate Chair Mary Gauvain's memo (dated January 28, 2021) to UC Provost and Executive Vice President Michael T. Brown summarized the Divisions and systemwide committee comments as follows:

Moving forward, the Council believes it is important to develop a clear definition of a "UC quality degree," to guide further discussions about online courses and especially fully online degrees. The Council feels it would be particularly important for the definition of quality to be considered in the context of UC's status as a Research I University that delivers research-based teaching and provides research opportunities to undergraduates and trains graduate students in a wide range of disciplines and professions.

Additionally, members request clarification on the impact that revising this Senate Regulation would have on other Senate Regulations that depend on the definition of "residency," e.g. SR 612 and 630 (the latter of which was also under proposed revision earlier in the academic year):

612. Except as provided in SRs 614 and 694, the minimum residence at the University of California required for a degree is three quarters (or two semesters). Each Summer Session in which a student completes a course of at least 2 units may be used in satisfaction of half a quarter's residence. A Summer Session in which a student completes at least 6 units may be used as a semester of residence. [See SR 688. For an exception to this rule see SR 690.] (Am 9 Mar 83; Am 6 Mar 85)

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630 A. Except as otherwise provided in this section and SR 614, 35 (or 24 semester) of the final 45 (or 30 semester) units completed by each candidate for the Bachelor's degree must be earned in residence in the college or school of the University of California in which the degree is to be taken. (Am 9 Mar 83; Am 23 May 01)

Thank you for the opportunity to opine. If you have any questions, please contact us via the Undergraduate Council's analyst, Aileen Liu, at aliu@senate.ucla.edu.

cc: April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Academic Senate
Aileen Liu, Committee Analyst, Graduate Council
Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate