

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION
COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS
LIN TIAN, CHAIR
ltian@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED
5200 N LAKE RD
MERCED, CA 95343
PH: 209-228-4209

March 14, 2017

To: Jack Vevea, Chair, General Education Subcommittee (GESC)

From: Lin Tian, Chair, Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)

Re: Approval Process for the Proposal for a UC Merced General Education Program

The Committee on Rules and Elections was asked to address a question raised by a faculty member regarding the process by which the *Proposal for a UC Merced General Education Program* is approved. Specifically, the faculty member asked if approval required a vote of the Senate faculty.

Because the process by which the General Education program at UC Merced is approved is not addressed in either of the two campus policies governing the establishing new academic programs¹, CRE sought to answer the following questions in addressing this request:

- 1) Is a vote of the faculty required?
- 2) If yes, what is the voting unit?
- 3) What vote is required to approve the program (majority or other)?
- 4) What level of faculty participation in the vote is required for approval?
- 5) At what point in the approval process should the vote take place?

In reaching the following conclusions, CRE drew on existing [Undergraduate Council](#) and [administrative](#) policies related to the approval of new undergraduate programs, as well as [Division Bylaws](#), the [Bylaws of all three schools](#), and those of [College One](#), to which all faculty belong, as per [Part III. Title II. 2C of the Division Bylaws](#), and which historically has been the home of General Education at UC Merced.

Specifically, the approval of General Education curriculum will require the following:

- A vote of the Senate faculty of the Merced Division.
- Approval requires a majority of votes cast, not counting abstentions.
- The vote of the faculty must take place before UGC votes on the proposal, and in turn before Divisional Council votes to approve the proposal.

Looking forward, CRE recommends that the Division revise the appropriate policies to address the process by which a campus-wide curriculum is approved.

CC: Lin Tian, Chair, Committee on Rules and Elections
Lilian Tian, Vice Chair, Committee on Rules and Elections
Peter Vanderschraaf, Member, Committee on Rules and Elections

¹ The administrative policy for the [Establishment or Revision of Academic Degree Programs](#) and UGC's [Policy for the Review and Approval of Undergraduate Degree Programs](#).

Anne Zanzucchi, Chair, Undergraduate Council
Senate Office