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Office of the Academic Senate
SANTA CRUZ DIVISION
125 CLARK KERR HALL
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December 10, 2024

STEVEN CHEUNG
Chair, Academic Council

RE: **Systemwide Review of Proposed Senate Regulation 627 (Posthumous Awarding of Degrees)**

Dear Steven,

The Santa Cruz Academic Senate has completed your request for review of proposed Senate Regulation 627 (Posthumous Awarding of Degrees). Our Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) and Graduate Council (GC) have responded. Overall, our division supports the policy's "spirit of sympathy and compassion in awarding posthumous degrees to the bereaved" (CEP). Our committees also offer the following suggested refinements to the proposed policy, believing they will help to ensure the policy is "generous and compassionate," as intended.

- GC found the requirement of good academic standing in (A) to be unnecessary. Being currently enrolled or on leave, provided the student had been working toward their degree in any way, is sufficient. Likewise in (B), GC found that "good academic standing" could be struck.
- Both GC and CEP counsel that requests in (C) could come from any loved one, including friends and partners. CEP recommends that the term "family" be extended to include a broader range of people who might make such a request (i.e., a caregiver or chosen family member).
- Finally, GC cautions that the family may not be able or willing to provide consultation depending on the circumstances. There may also not be a family to consult. For these reasons, the language GC advises here is "might be consulted out of a sense of respect."

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Matthew McCarthy, Chair
Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division

cc: Tanner WouldGo, Chair, Committee on Educational Policy
Chad Saltikov, Chair, Graduate Council
Matthew Mednick, Executive Director, Academic Senate