

December 8, 2016

Richard Hughey, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
Chancellor's Office

RE: CEP Follow Up: Santa Cruz Regulation 9.1.8 and Course Repeats

Dear Richard,

CEP considered the guidelines for the implementation of Santa Cruz Regulation SCR 9.1.8 that were formulated by the Division of Undergraduate Education and supported by CEP in 2011-12

(https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/sites/default/files/Double%20Repeat%20Guidelines_1.pdf). In particular, the guidelines state that “Denial of additional repeats should not be the sole factor that prevents a student from earning a degree.” This is made stronger in the Double Repeat Petition

(https://www.ue.ucsc.edu/sites/default/files/Double%20Repeat%20Petition%20Updated%207-15-16_0.pdf), which includes the statement “Approved: no alternate major that can be completed within time to degree policies and no alternate course option.” This statement strongly suggests that, if a college cannot find an alternative pathway for a student to graduate in time in their current major or a different major, permission to repeat a course more than once *must* be given. We believe that this is incorrect.

The guidelines are presumably based on UC Legislative Ruling 6.11.C (clause 3), which expresses concern about actions that effectively disqualify a student from the university even though they satisfy the minimum standards of Senate Regulation SR 900.A. However, SR 900.C allows for more stringent norms if they are on the basis of regulations adopted by a Division and approved by the Assembly. Since SCR 9.1.8 satisfies this condition, the “concern” expressed in UCLR 6.11.C is not applicable. We note that SCR 9.1.8 is in line with SR 780.C.2 at the systemwide level, as well as regulations on several other campuses, and is therefore perfectly in keeping with the norms of the University of California.

If it is still believed that SCR 9.1.8 is implicitly limited by UCLR 6.11.C or other considerations, this should be argued before RJ&E. Until this is done, neither CEP nor the VPDUE can limit the final authority granted to colleges by SCR 9.1.8.

When deciding whether to permit a student to repeat a course more than once, we expect that colleges will consider the student's likelihood of passing the course, completing their major, or completing an alternative major, and that departmental recommendations will be “weighted very heavily in making decisions” (CEP Annual Report 2011-12). However, the ultimate decision rests with the college.

Sincerely,



John Tamkun, Chair
Committee on Educational Policy

cc: CoP Chair Abrams
Associate Dean Larrabee
Registrar Sanger
Department Chairs