


April 3, 2020

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
Academic Senate

FROM: Philip Brisk, Chair   
BCOE Executive Committee

RE: [Campus Review] COVID-19 Response Temporary Modification to UCR Graduate Regulation (GR) 1.5.7 (Graduate course withdrawals offered Spring 2020)

Dear Dylan,

The BCOE Executive Committee reviewed Graduate Council's COVID-19 Response Temporary Modification to UCR Graduate Regulation (GR) 1.5.7 governing graduate course withdrawals offered in Spring Quarter 2020 only. The Committee supports the Temporary Modification.

That said, the Committee wishes to express some concern about how the implementation of this policy may negatively impact international graduate students, who must complete 12 units per quarter as a condition of their visa. The opportunity to withdraw late from a course may have an adverse impact on any international graduate student who cannot enroll in a sufficient number of units in an alternate class in order to bring the total up to 12. Graduate students with an advisor should be able to enroll in research units; however, Ph.D. students without an advisor and M.S. students who have opted to complete their degrees via comprehensive examinations may be at risk. The graduate faculty advisors of every graduate program at UCR with at least one international graduate student enrolled in Spring 2020 need to be made aware of this policy in order to minimize inadvertent harm to graduate students who wish to withdraw from a course late.