

July 24, 2020

TO: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
Academic Senate

CC: Shaun Bowler, Dean  
Graduate Division

Jason Stajich, Chair  
Graduate Council

FROM: Philip Brisk, Chair  
BCOE Executive Committee

RE: Proposed Changes to Graduate Division Regulation GR5.4

Dear Dylan,

On behalf of BCOE, I would like to thank the Senate for taking the initiative to consider this temporary change to Graduate Division Regulation GR5.4, and acknowledge Dean Bowler's support. The proposed change will have a major impact for international Graduate Students in BCOE M.S. and Ph.D. programs who will matriculate in Fall 2020. These students will benefit significantly from the allowance to take additional remote graduate courses offered by BCOE programs through UCR Extension concurrent enrollment and to count them toward satisfaction of their degree requirements.

BCOE respectfully requests that the Senate consider the following revision to the language for the proposed change to Graduate Division Regulation GR5.4:

- GR5.4 Transfer from UCR Extension - Students may transfer up to 8-units of UCR Extension concurrent enrollment credit. Up to 12 units are permitted to be transferred if taken prior to Fall 2021.

Our justification for this request is based on the following rationale:

- The political and pandemic situation are both unlikely to resolve in the short-term, so looking beyond Fall 2020 is essential.
- Feedback from admitted students suggests that a great many do not expect to join during Winter 2021; understandably, many have requested to defer enrollment to Fall 2021.
- BCOE would like to keep students engaged by encouraging them to take classes remotely. Realistically, most students would struggle with full-time enrollment of 12 units taken remotely in a single quarter; remote learning is a unique and stressful experience, especially considering that many of our international students presently live in countries that are many time zones away (e.g., in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East).
- BCOE plans to advise admitted students who defer to Fall 2021 to take one remote course per quarter. BCOE believes that doing so will increase their commitment to coming to UCR where they can get the courses transferred; conversely, this option seems most likely to reduce melt among students who have understandably opted for a deferral.

Thank you very much for your support, and for considering our proposed revision to the change. The vast majority of BCOE M.S. and Ph.D. students are international and, consequently, BCOE is likely to be more impacted by this proposed change than any other School or College. According to current projections, BCOE will account for 50% of the international graduate students in UCR's incoming cohort for Fall 2020.