COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

November 2, 2022

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
   Riverside Division

From: Peter M. Sadler, Chair
       Committee on Undergraduate Admissions

Re: Systemwide Review - Proposed Amendment to Senate Regulation 630 (Residency)

The Committee on Undergraduate Admissions reviewed the proposed addition to Senate Regulation 630 (Residency) at their October 21, 2022, meeting and is generally supportive of the proposed changes. SR 630E has become a necessary addition to clarify residency, considering the potentially increasing role of remote courses.

Matters of residency are not central to the mandate of the Committee on Undergraduate Admissions. Members accepted the merits of in-person instruction and group synergy. Members’ individual concerns about remote courses varied with their own experience of different course components. Although lecture sections have been successfully offered in remote mode, it is harder to offer remote laboratory and field sections that meet the intent of the in-person course as initially approved. In-person laboratory or field components may be essential to acceptance of some degree programs (e.g. geology, engineering) by state boards of registration and professional accreditation organizations.

Not all existing “in-person” courses would necessarily have been approved with the 630E stipulation that 50 percent of instruction hours be in-person and in-residence. How are we to evaluate individual senior theses, for example, in which students investigate remote field locations?

There was concern that the amended regulation intended to prohibit on-line degree programs. The intent is surely more limited -- to prevent stealthy, course-by-course approaches to that end. Perhaps the amended language should refer to a regulation that stipulates the proper pathway to approval of new degree programs.

The amendment was proposed with essential and expanded explanations of several key phrases, including “are designed to,” and “instructional hours.” Will such notes accompany the amended regulation 630?