Staff Notes: Revocation of Degree Policy Review

At the February 10, 2011 meeting of the Academic Senate’s Executive Board, the Board reviewed a proposal by the Dean of Students office on a policy regarding the revoking of degrees. Debra Geller, Chief Administrative Officer of the Division of Student and Campus Life and Executive Director of Campus Standards was present for the discussion. At the meeting, the Board conveyed the following recommendations to Dr. Geller:

1. The appeals deadline for students at each step of the process should be one month, not one week.
2. The concurrence of the cognizant academic dean should be secured by the Dean of Students prior to revoking a degree.
3. The concurrence of the dean of undergraduate education or the dean of graduate education should be secured by the Dean of Students prior to revoking a degree.

The revised policy, shown below, reflects these recommendations.

UCLA Student Conduct Code
Section II.F: Revocation of Degree

If, after a degree has been awarded, a degree recipient is found responsible for a violation of the UCLA Student Conduct Code involving academic dishonesty or fraud committed while a student, then the Dean of Students* may impose, as a sanction, a revocation of the degree, subject to the following procedures:

1. The Dean of Students will submit a recommendation of revocation of the degree to the Academic Senate and obtain the concurrence of the Chair of the Academic Senate.

2. If the degree in question is a graduate/professional degree, the Dean of Students will also submit a recommendation of revocation of the degree to the Dean of the Graduate Division and cognizant academic or Professional School Dean and obtain the concurrence of the Dean.

3. If the degree in question is an undergraduate degree, the Dean of Students will also submit a recommendation of revocation of the degree to the Dean of the Division of Undergraduate Education and the cognizant Academic or Professional School Dean and obtain the concurrence of the Dean.
4. A Notice of Intent to Revoke Degree shall be sent to the student. This notice shall include the details of the violation and the basis for the revocation.

5. The student may submit a written appeal of the revocation to the Vice Chancellor, Student Affairs within twenty business days from the date of the Notice of Intent to Revoke Degree. The imposition of the Revocation of Degree will be deferred during such appeal. The review of such appeal will be in accordance with section III.K. of the Student Conduct Code. If the student does not appeal within twenty business days, the sanction of revocation of the degree is final.

6. If the Vice Chancellor upholds the revocation of degree, the student may submit a written appeal to the Chancellor within twenty business days from the date of notice of the Vice Chancellor’s decision. The decision of the Chancellor is final.

*For degrees issued by the School of Medicine, authority to revoke degrees is bestowed upon the School of Medicine Dean of Students.*

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This document includes the revised Revocation of Degrees policy, and the summary of staff notes from the Executive Board meeting, provided by Academic Senate CAO Jaime Balboa.