March 2, 2017

TO:    Susan Cochran, Chair
       UCLA Academic Senate

FR:    Ertugrul Taciroglu, Chair
       Undergraduate Council

Re:    THE UC NATURAL RESERVE SYSTEM SYSTEMWIDE CALIFORNIA ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION FIELD COURSE & PROPOSED REVISION TO SR 630

At its January 27, 2017 meeting, the Undergraduate Council discussed the UC Natural Reserve System Systemwide California Ecology and Conservation Field Course and the proposed revision to SR 630.

The Council had two primary concerns regarding the proposal. First, our members were concerned with the change in language to adopt the term "a systemwide course". To our knowledge, there is currently no universally accepted definition on what constitutes a systemwide course. One could potentially argue that online courses (and other course offerings, such as summer sessions courses which are open to all UC and non-UC students) are systemwide courses. Therefore, the Council cannot support the accepted change to SR 630 as it is currently written.

The second issue of concern is related to the UC Natural Reserve System Systemwide California Ecology and Conservation Field Course. After conferring with our Registrar’s Office, it is the Council’s understanding that credit for this program is not granted through a UC campus, but through the University of California Office of the President (UCOP). The Council does not believe it is appropriate for UCOP, which is an administrative unit (not an academic one), to confer course credit and issue transcripts independent of a UC campus.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me or Eric Wells, the Undergraduate Council Analyst, at x51194.

cc:    Christopher Jados, Executive Assistant to Senate Leadership & CAO
       Linda Mohr, CAO, Academic Senate