December 7, 2009

Harry Powell  
Chair, Academic Council  
University of California

**In Re: Proposed Repeal of SR 764**

Dear Harry,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposal to rescind Senate Regulation 764. Upon receipt of the proposal, I requested review by the Undergraduate Council, all Faculty Executive Committees with undergraduate programs, and the Executive Board. All responding bodies noted that UCLA already operates by exception to the regulation, and were unanimous in their endorsement of the proposal.

I am attaching the responses by the Undergraduate Council and the College FEC, for your information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Garrell  
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

Cc: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director, Academic Senate  
Jaime R. Balboa, Chief Administrative Officer, UCLA Academic Senate
November 13, 2009

To: Robin Garrell, Chair
    Academic Senate

From: Joseph B. Watson, Chair
      Undergraduate Council

Re: Proposal to Repeal Academic Senate Regulation 764, Special Study Courses

I am writing to report that at its November 6, 2009 meeting, the Undergraduate Council (UgC) discussed the University Committee on Educational Policy’s proposal to repeal Academic Senate Regulation 764. The Regulation limits credit in special study courses for undergraduate students to five units per term. The Council endorsed the proposal to repeal Academic Senate Regulation 764 unanimously with 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The student vote was 2 in favor, 0 opposed, and with 1 abstention.

As noted in the proposal, the current use and interpretation of “special study courses” varies across the UC campuses. UCLA is one of the campuses that have a variance to Regulation 764 that allows students to engage in a maximum of 8 units of upper-division tutorials, numbered 195-199 [special studies courses], per quarter. Through this mechanism, UCLA demonstrates its commitment to and the importance of providing its undergraduate students with opportunities in research under direct supervision of a faculty mentor.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me (x 57587; jwatson@mednet.ucla.edu) or Judith Lacertosa, UgC Principal Policy Analyst (x51194; jlacertosa@senate.ucla.edu).

cc: Jaime Balboa, CAO, Academic Senate
    Judith Lacertosa, Principal Policy Analyst, Undergraduate Council
    Dorothy Ayer, Assistant to Senate Leadership & CAO
November 4, 2009

Robin Garrell
Chair of the Academic Senate
UCLA

Dear Robin,

At your request, the College Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) has considered the proposal to repeal Senate Regulation 764 from the University Committee on Courses (UCEP). Senate Regulation 764 limits credit in special study courses to five units per term for undergraduates. At our meeting on October 30, 2009, the committee voted unanimously to endorse the proposal as written. The vote tally included 12 members in favor with 0 opposition or abstentions.

Members of the College FEC agree with the rationale for repealing the regulation as specified in the proposal. The regulation does not define “special study” courses leading to confusion and different interpretations. Many campuses, such as UCLA, have approved variances to the regulation. For example, UCLA allows up to 8 credits of special study per quarter. UCLA interprets “special study” to include only course numbers 195-199. It seems policies related to “special study” courses should be established and implemented on the campus level.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine on this Senate Action Item for Review. You are welcome to contact me at (310) 206-2278 or knapp@humnet.ucla.edu with questions. Dayna Baker Weintraub, Executive Coordinator, is also available to assist you and she can be reached at (310) 794-5579 or dbweintraub@college.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Ray Knapp
Chair, College Faculty Executive Committee