



14-15 BEC 5
November 20, 2014

TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate
SUBJECT: Campus response to 120/180 unit cap process requested by ASCSU Executive Committee
PURPOSE: Information to the Senate

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On October 24, 2014, the CSUEB Executive Committee was asked by Steven Filling, Chair, Statewide Academic Senate, to provide the ASCSU Executive Committee with feedback on the 120/180 unit cap exceptions process on our campus. This request was made in response to changes in Title 5 by the CSU Board of Trustees in 2013 (“Recommendation to Amend Title 5 to Re-establish Appropriate Unit Limits for Engineering Degrees”) and reports by various campuses to the ASCSU Executive Committee that were not consistent with Chancellor White’s description of the 120/180 unit exceptions process. The CSUEB Executive Committee met with appropriate individuals on campus to discuss the unit cap exceptions process and, following that meeting, sent a letter to Steven Filling describing the unit cap exceptions process on our campus.



Dr. Steve Filling
Chair, CSU Academic Senate

October 29, 2014

Dear Steve,

Per your email of October 24, 2014, the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate of CSU, East Bay, discussed the 120/180 units exceptions as it relates to our campus. We were joined in our discussion by the Chair of the Department of Engineering, Saeid Motavalli, and the Dean of the College of Science, Michael Leung. The Associate Vice President for Academic Programs and Graduate Studies (APGS), Susan Opp, was also a guest at our meeting and participated in the discussion.

We had a very lively discussion on the topic and it is clear that, at least on our campus, there are no problems with the 120/180 units exception requests. The Department of Engineering, in conjunction with APGS, has sent its requests and justifications to the Chancellor's office. Indeed, everyone involved in this issue at CSUEB is working collaboratively on the best solutions for our faculty and students. That said, most of the discussion pointed out several problems with the 120/180 units exceptions requests:

- The Dept. of Engineering sent requests to the CO over a year ago without any decision.
- A lack of decision by the CO has created additional problems for the campus including new curricular changes that exceed the 180 (quarter) unit limit, and a new curriculum within Engineering that also exceeds the 180 unit limit.
- The exception units requests have created substantial work for department faculty and APGS when faced with numerous requests for additional or revised information from the CO.
- What are the consequences of exceeding the 120/180 unit limit for our campus and others?
- How should our campus proceed while we wait for the CO to make a decision on units exceptions?

It is clear that the change in Title 5 has created a multi-faceted problem. As Dean Leung pointed out, the change didn't create a system-wide solution but, instead, created 23 separate problems. What works for San Jose and Long Beach (the 'models' for 120/180 unit limits), does not necessarily work for all campuses since we have a 'moral obligation' to educate our students to be competitive in the workforce. Part of that educational obligation is to ensure that students have a well-rounded education that includes General Education as well as fulfillment of professional degrees consistent with accrediting agencies.

Thank you for looking into this matter and for soliciting feedback from our campus. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or comments about our response.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hedrick".

Michael Hedrick
Chair, CSUEB Academic Senate