

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, ACADEMIC SENATE

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • MERCED • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Office of the Executive Director
PHONE: (510) 987-9458
FAX: (510) 763-0309
E-MAIL: mbertero@ucop.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate
Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

March 2, 2005

DIVISIONAL AND SYSTEM-WIDE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

RE: Proposed Amendments to Senate Regulation 600 B. – Response Date: April 14, 2005

Dear Divisional and Committee Chairs:

On behalf of Chair Blumenthal, please find for your review and comment a proposed amendment to [Senate Regulation 600B](#). Specifically, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) has recommended that Senate Regulation 600(B), which prohibits Senate members from obtaining a higher degree from his/her Division be modified as set noted below:

600. B. ~~No voting member of the Senate shall be recommended for a higher degree by his or her Division unless~~ No voting member of the Senate should be recommended for a higher degree by the department or program in which he or she has an appointment unless, prior to the date of final action on the member's appointment to a rank carrying the voting privilege, the dean of the member's Graduate Division shall have certified to the appropriate authority that the member has met all the requirements for that degree. In addition, degree candidates cannot be members of committees or be in positions of administrative authority that have influence or control over the resources, funding, degree granting, and academic personnel actions of the degree granting department or program unless they are able to recuse themselves from any decisions/actions involving the said department or program. Such appointments may be retroactive.

The attached document also provides a justification for this amendment.

We would like to place the proposed amendment before the Assembly at its May 2005 meeting. In order to do so we would appreciate receiving your response **no later than April 14, 2005**, so that Council may consider it for approval at its April meeting.

Special Note To System-wide Committee Chairs: In keeping with the review process adopted by this office, request for comments on most issues under review are sent out to all System-wide Committees. Each Chair (or in consultation with the Committee) may decide whether or not to opine. Please notify either the committee analyst or me if your committee chooses not to participate in this review.

Thank you for taking this matter under consideration.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maria Bertero-Barcelo".

Maria Bertero-Barcelo, Director
Academic Senate

Encl.: 1
Copy: Divisional Senate Directors
Academic Senate Committee Analysts

Coordinating Committee of Graduate Affairs (CCGA)
Proposed Amendment to Senate Regulation 600(B)

The Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) recommends that Senate Regulation 600(B), which prohibits faculty colleagues from bestowing degrees upon each other at their own campuses, be modified as set forth below.

Present Wording:

600.

- B. No voting member of the Senate shall be recommended for a higher degree by his or her Division unless, prior to the date of final action on the member's appointment to a rank carrying the voting privilege, the dean of the member's Graduate Division shall have certified to the appropriate authority that the member has met all the requirements for that degree. Such appointments may be retroactive.

Proposed Wording:

600.

- B. ~~No voting member of the Senate shall be recommended for a higher degree by his or her Division unless~~No voting member of the Senate should be recommended for a higher degree by the department or program in which he or she has an appointment unless, prior to the date of final action on the member's appointment to a rank carrying the voting privilege, the dean of the member's Graduate Division shall have certified to the appropriate authority that the member has met all the requirements for that degree. In addition, degree candidates cannot be members of committees or be in positions of administrative authority that have influence or control over the resources, funding, degree granting, and academic personnel actions of the degree granting department or program unless they are able to recuse themselves from any decisions/actions involving the said department or program. Such appointments may be retroactive.

JUSTIFICATION:

The original intent of this regulation was to prohibit faculty colleagues from bestowing higher degrees upon fellow faculty members at their own campuses. This regulation prevents a form of 'nepotism', in which a faculty member might be awarded an advanced degree by his/her own colleagues—a situation which could be rife with conflicts of interest.

The growth in new graduate degrees such as the Masters of Advanced Studies (MAS) offers UC faculty the opportunity to advance their careers, through engaging in additional training/education. There are already a number of MAS degrees on UC campuses (Davis, San Francisco, San Diego) with the promise of more to come. These types of degrees are of particular interest to faculty within the fields of medical and biology science, who, as the example of UCSF's MAS program in Clinical Research shows, might be interested in adding to their expertise in clinical work. Another example could be that of a professor (in any of a range of disciplines) who is interested in earning a MBA at his/her own campus.

The current form of this regulation presents a significant problem to these new and emerging MAS programs, some of which are targeted at practicing professionals. Retaining the status quo of this regulation would mean not only limiting the enrollment of these programs to outside-of-UC, non-Senate members, but also restricting the careers and intellectual growth of UC faculty. In fact, CCGA's review of this regulation was prompted by the Graduate Council at UC Davis, which is currently reviewing a program proposal for a new MAS in Clinical Research—a program in which there is interest in possibly enrolling faculty. Moreover, the current MAS program in Clinical Research at UCSF also has significant faculty interest within it

In order to retain the original intent of the regulation, CCGA recommends restricting the granting of advanced degrees to an intra-departmental basis. In other words, UC faculty members could not receive a degree from the department or program in which he or she holds an appointment, but departments or programs could bestow degrees on programmatically external candidates if the candidate had completed the appropriate degree requirements. The committee agreed that the most efficient way to change this regulation was not to simply grant exceptions at each division, but to replace the first clause of the first sentence with:

“No voting member of the Senate should be recommended for a higher degree by the department or program in which he or she has an appointment unless...”

CCGA also felt that it is important to avoid any potential conflicts of interest. Degree candidates should not have power or influence over the degree granting department or program in terms of resources funding, degree granting, and academic personnel actions. However, potential conflicts of interest can be avoided if the degree candidate has the ability to recuse him or herself from any decisions/actions involving the degree granting department or program. Therefore, CCGA also wishes to add the following clause to the regulation:

“In addition, degree candidates cannot be members of committees or be in positions of administrative authority that have influence or control over the resources, funding, degree granting, and academic personnel actions of the degree granting department or program unless they are able to recuse themselves from any decisions/actions involving the said department or program.”

CCGA supports and requests the adoption of this amendment to Academic Senate Regulation 600(B).