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October 15, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gay Gullickson
Chair, Senate Academic Procedures and Standards Committee

FROM: William Montgomery
Chair, University Senate

SUBJECT: Review of the 30-Credit Rule and Addition of Specific Language
(Senate Document Number 07-08-14)

President Mote has made international experiences for undergraduates a priority. Last year the Senate Educational Affairs Committee examined ways to increase the number of students who could participate in study abroad programs and in international internships. While reviewing existing programs and procedures the committee found institutional barriers to international study. Dean Hamilton has forwarded the attached proposal from the Undergraduate Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) that would eliminate one of those barriers for qualified students. This proposal would give deans greater flexibility in administering the residency requirement by permitting seniors who have completed most of their program requirements to study abroad during their last 30 credits.

The Senate Executive Committee has decided to charge the Academic Procedures and Standards (APAS) Committee with reviewing the merits of the recommendation and the proposed additional language for the last 30-credit rule. In 2002 the APAS Committee brought to the Senate a proposal increasing the number of credits taken in the last 30 hours from 8 to 16. This proposal, which the Senate endorsed, required prior approval of the student's dean and the chair or program director. It also included the provision that the student had completed 75 credit hours in residence. The Executive Committee asks the APAS Committee to determine whether UPAC's recommendation to relax further the 30-credit rule is necessary and whether it contributes to advancing an institutional priority.

Please send your report to the Senate Office, 1100 Marie Mount Hall, by Wednesday, February 13, 2007. If you have questions or concerns, please call Dr. Mary Giles, on extension 5-5804, or contact her by e-mail, at mgiles@deans.umd.edu.

WLM:mdg

Attachment