January 13, 2012

PAMELA HUNT-CARTER  
University Registrar

Dear Pam:

Re: Grade Point Average for Second Baccalaureate Students

It has recently come to my attention that, for second baccalaureate students who also completed their first degree at UCSC, the campus has been interpreting academic senate regulation 9.4.1 in a way that results in their being held to the grading and academic standing policies that were in effect when they were admitted to UCSC for their first undergraduate program. A consequence of this interpretation is that students who return to UCSC in a second baccalaureate program after first having attended UCSC prior to Fall 2001 may be ineligible for a grade point average summarizing their work. This seems inconsistent with the intent of the senate regulation, and may disadvantage students in the graduate and professional school application process.

I have conferred with CEP Chair Zurbriggen and we have determined that, for students enrolled now and in the future, a G.P.A. should be calculated for all students admitted in either a first or second baccalaureate program in Fall 2001 or later. Second baccalaureate students who completed their first degree elsewhere and those who completed their first degree at UCSC under the current grading policies already have an official grade point average calculated. It is only those who were initially admitted prior to Fall 1997 and those who were admitted between Fall 1997 and Spring 2001 that do not have the required 2/3 credits attempted for letter grades, whose records will require attention.

Even though the number of students potentially in this category is small, it is important to pursue AIS programming to support ongoing maintenance and electronic transmission of accurate GPA data. In the meantime, I request that, for students affected in this way, the official transcript be annotated with a cumulative grade point average representing the work completed in their second baccalaureate program, along the lines of the following:

Second Baccalaureate G.P.A.: 2.XX.
Our system did not automatically calculate G.P.A.s for this student because s/he was initially admitted to a (first) degree program prior to fall 2001, before G.P.A.s were calculated for all undergraduates. The above G.P.A. reflects coursework completed while enrolled in the Second Baccalaureate program and is calculated using the current grading policies.

The grade point average noted on the transcript should be calculated based on the grading policies in effect at the time of the student’s admission to the second baccalaureate program.

Sincerely,

Richard Hughey  
Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education

cc: CEP Chair Zurbriggen  
Academic Advising Coordinator Sketo-Rosener