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Attachment E
Faculty Senate Agenda
September 23, 2004

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

Faculty
413

Senate Received

March 27, 2002

TO Faculty Senate Executive Committee

FROM Tom Krabacher, Chair
Academic Policies Committee

SUBJ Letter of Transmittal: Change in Registration Priorities

PROPOSED ACTION: The Academic policy Committee recommends that current university regulations governing registration priority be amended to allow entering freshmen attending orientation the opportunity to register and enroll in classes during orientation.

BACKGROUND: In February 2002, Tom Griffith, Director of the Academic Advising Center met with the Academic Policies Committee and requested it recommend a change in the current policy on registration priorities. The change would allow entering freshman who attend orientation the opportunity to register and enroll in classes during orientation. This, in effect, would give freshmen attending orientation priority other groups of the students. University policy currently assigns registration priority in the following order:

- Graduating seniors
- Seniors
- Freshmen
- Classified graduates
- Juniors
- Sophomores
- Unclassified graduates

Because of the timing of summer orientation, if the proposed change in registration priority is adopted entering freshmen attending orientation would, in effect, be placed at the head of this list.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR: The following arguments were advanced in favor of the proposed change:

1. The practice has been in place informally at CSUS since 1996; the proposed change would make this informal practice official policy.

2. The principal reason for the proposed practice is to provide entering freshmen with an incentive to attend orientation. This is important in that orientation has been documented to have a positive influence on the retention and academic success of entering freshmen.

3. The number of entering freshmen attending orientation is sufficiently small that their priority registration would unlikely disadvantage the two other student groups-- Graduating Seniors and Seniors—that hold higher registration priority under current policy. Moreover, it is unlikely that entering freshmen and graduating seniors/seniors would be competing for the same classes to any significant degree.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST: There were no arguments formally raised against the proposed policy change although concern was raised that not all entering freshmen would be able to afford the summer orientation fee, which currently runs as high as \$60. The question was posed as to whether the relatively high fee would prevent some freshmen from being able to attend orientation and take advantage of the registration priority. The Academic Policy Committee urged the University to explore ways of addressing this issue, including exploring the possibility that the fee be paid directly through student financial aid.

BACKGROUND: In February 2002, Tom Griffin, Director of the Academic Advising Center met with the Academic Policies Committee and requested it reconsider a change in the current policy on registration priority. The change would allow entering freshmen who attend orientation the opportunity to register and enroll in classes during orientation. This in effect would give freshmen attending orientation priority over groups of the students. University policy currently assigns registration priority in the following order:

- Graduating seniors
- Seniors
- Freshmen
- Classified graduates
- Juniors
- Sophomores
- Unclassified graduates

Because of the timing of summer orientation, if the proposal change in registration priority is adopted entering freshmen attending orientation would, in effect, be placed at the head of this list.

ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR: The following arguments were advanced in favor of the proposed change:

1. The practice has been in place informally at CSUS since 1985; the proposed change would make this informal practice official policy.