Richard Tucker  
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  

RE: Temporary Exception to GC-2018-02 (Rev. 02) Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language Policy

Dear Richard:

Graduate Council received a request from Graduate Studies on June 17, 2021 for a temporary exception to GC 2018-02 (Rev. 02) Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language Policy. Graduate Council approved the proposed temporary exception, provided below, on June 25, 2021.

Temporary Exception:

In addition to the three existing conditions stated in the policy (GC 2018-02), permit the following proposed conditions through Fall 2022:

4. Allow students to use a Duolingo score of 130 or higher as an acceptable qualification for meeting the conditions for exemption from the course requirement (i.e., UWP 225/226 or its equivalent).

or

5. Allow students with a Duolingo score to use a qualifying TOEFL score as an acceptable qualification for meeting the conditions for exemption from the course requirement (i.e., UWP 225/226 or its equivalent).

Rationale: In July 2020, the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) approved the use of Duolingo as an acceptable test for fulfillment of the English language test admissions requirement. BOARS approved the use of Duolingo through fall 2022 (see July 17, 2020 BOARS meeting minutes). Graduate Studies accepted a Duolingo score of 115 or higher as a form of “non-subjective evidence” (GS2014-04) for the 2020 and 2021 admissions cycles. The requirement for English language coursework outlined in GC2018-02 is tied to the English language admissions requirement. The current policy allows students to use a qualifying TOEFL or IELTS score to exempt them from the English language course requirement (i.e., completion of UWP 225/226 or its equivalent). Thus, an exception that allows students to use a qualifying Duolingo score as an acceptable form of exemption will align the admissions and course requirement policies and ensure that incoming students have clear and equitable expectations for fulfilling the first year English language course requirement.

The temporary exception to GC 2018-02 (Rev. 02) Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language Policy is effective June 25, 2021 through Fall 2022.

GC requests that the Academic Senate formally notify Graduate Studies of the approval of the temporary exception. Graduate Studies should then notify the graduate programs.
Sincerely,

Dean Tantillo
Chair, Graduate Council Committee

c: Edwin M. Arevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Mary Vasquez, Associate Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Jean-Pierre Delplanque, Vice Provost – Graduate Education and Dean – Graduate Studies
Duncan Temple Lang, Associate Dean, Graduate Studies
Ellen Hartigan-O’Connor, Associate Dean Graduate Studies
Jasmine Bonite, Project/Policy Analyst, Graduate Studies