December 18, 2013

MEMORANDUM

TO: Presidents

FROM: Ephraim P. Smith  
Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: 120-Units Reporting Due January 31, 2014

It has been nearly a year since the trustees voted to amend Title 5, limiting the number of units that can be required in most bachelor’s degrees. The long-term goal was for all programs that are subject to the new unit-maxima shall have been reduced to approved limits and shall appear in 2014-2015 campus catalogs. We thank the campus faculty who have already reduced baccalaureate requirements to no more than 120 semester units, and we appreciate the continuing work of reviewing and revising degree requirements. With the expansion of the CSU Degrees Database (DDb) to include all self-support degree programs, we can now report that the CSU offers 2,655 degree programs and concentrations. Ninety-six percent (2,547) of CSU bachelor’s programs are subject to the Title 5 limitation to 120 units, and 285 (11 percent) exceed 120 units. At this time, campuses have reported via the DDb that 90 degree programs and concentrations (3.5 percent) require 130 semester units or more (193 quarter units).

Continuing with the plans put in place last January, all programs requiring 130 units or more are due to report to the Chancellor’s Office by January 31, 2014. Campuses seeking an exception to the 120-unit limit are requested to submit for each program a completed curriculum map and exception worksheet (attached). The curriculum map allows reviewers to understand how each degree programs requirements have been developed in response the program’s learning outcomes and in consideration of accreditation requirements and licensure or certification requirements, among other obligations. Please direct all questions, reports and exceptions to 120@calstate.edu or to Dr. Christine Mallon, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Programs at cmallon@calstate.edu (562) 951-4672.

ES/clm

Enclosures

c: Dr. Timothy P. White, Chancellor  
Provosts and Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs  
Associate Provosts/Associate Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs  
Dr. Diana W. Guerin, Chair, Academic Senate, CSU  
Campus Academic Senate Chairs