EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLORS

Dear Colleagues,

Attached please find a White Paper on impacted majors from the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP).

Please circulate it to Undergraduate Deans, Student Affairs Directors or others in the administration who you feel would be appropriate.

In brief, the paper notes that a clear set of policies does not exist on any of the campuses whereby pressures on impacted majors can be relieved. It provides UCEP’s definition of an impacted major, and highlights factors that result in an impacted major. The paper also documents current mitigation strategies used by various departments and makes the recommendation that the timely and accurate counseling of students is probably the most effective tool to minimize the impaction of various majors on UC campuses.

At its July 29, 2009 meeting, the Academic Council unanimously endorsed UCEP’s request to the Provost to distribute its white paper on impacted majors to deans, deans of undergraduate education, CEPs, UG Councils, and directors of student affairs and it is this request that I am complying with here.

In response to this paper, I have asked staff at OP to develop a more quantitative assessment of the extent and number of impacted majors than is presented in the report’s pages.

In the meantime, I would ask you to consider what means, other than accurate counseling of students, might help relieve the situation as you know it on your campuses.

Naturally, I will collate and communicate any response to the Academic Council for any further consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Lawrence H. Pitts
Interim Provost and Executive Vice President
Academic Affairs

cc: Vice Provost Greenstein
Executive Director Winnacker