



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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May 28, 2014

The Honorable Das Williams  
Chair, Assembly Higher Education Committee  
1020 N Street, Room 173  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 1200 (Padilla), as Amended on April 22, 2014**  
***Scheduled to be heard by the Assembly Higher Education Committee on June 10, 2014***  
***Position: NEUTRAL***

Dear Assembly Member Williams:

On behalf of the University of California (UC), I am writing to express our views regarding SB 1200 (Padilla), which calls upon UC to develop guidelines for high school computer science courses that would satisfy the mathematics prerequisite for UC admission. We believe recent amendments to this measure resolve our previous concerns, and thus the University is now neutral on the bill. UC believes we could implement this legislation in a manner that gives clear guidance to our high school partners who wish to develop rigorous computer science courses while ensuring that students have the necessary quantitative skills to succeed at the University.

UC's mathematics prerequisite, commonly known as subject area "c," requires students to complete three years of college preparatory mathematics coursework – generally understood to consist of elementary algebra, geometry, and advanced algebra – to be eligible for admission. Students are further encouraged to take a fourth year of mathematics to make themselves more competitive. This course sequence will ensure that students have the quantitative skills they will need to succeed at UC, regardless of their intended major. Under current UC admissions policy, computer science courses that deepen students' understanding of mathematics can and do count as advanced computer science courses in area "c." However, most high school computer science courses are counted as general college preparatory electives (area "g") for purposes of UC admission because they do not have sufficient math content.

If SB 1200 is enacted, UC will act through its Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) to develop guidelines for advanced level computer science courses that incorporate substantial exploration of mathematical concepts and are of sufficient rigor to prepare students for college-level work. However, these courses should be seen as a supplement to – rather than a substitute for – the three years of mathematics that serve as the cornerstone of the area "c" requirement. We believe it is critical to support full implementation of the Common Core State Standards and are pleased that SB 1200 calls for these new guidelines to be aligned with

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Common Core. This means three years of the Common Core State Standards mathematics curriculum for a student before going on to other topics, be they computer science, discrete math, statistics or pre-calculus. BOARS has undertaken significant efforts to align the “a-g” curriculum requirements with Common Core, and UC believes SB 1200 is consistent with those efforts – and indeed, with the national emphasis on helping high schools implement the Common Core Standards, which are meant to define the minimum standards for college and career readiness.

On behalf of the University, we would like to thank you for your consideration of our views and Senator Padilla for working with us to address our concerns. Should you have any questions about the University’s position on this bill, please do not hesitate to contact me at (916) 445-9924.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nadia Leal-Carrillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nadia" being the most prominent.

Nadia Leal-Carrillo  
Legislative Director

cc: Senator Padilla  
Members, Assembly Higher Education Committee  
President Janet Napolitano  
Provost and Executive Vice President Aimée Dorr  
Executive Vice President Nathan Brostrom  
Senior Vice President Daniel Dooley  
Associate Vice President and Director Steve Juarez