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November 28, 1994

Dr. Barry Munitz  
Chancellor  
The California State University  
400 Golden Shore  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4275

Dear Chancellor Munitz:

#### Background

At its July 15-16, 1991 meeting, the Board of Trustees adopted the Admission Advisory Council's recommendation (which the Chancellor supported) to complete the phase-in of the full 15-unit requirement for freshman admission beginning in the fall of 1992. This included an adjustment allowing some flexibility in meeting specific subject requirements of the college preparatory pattern. Beginning in fall 1992 and continuing not later than summer quarter 1995, applicants to the CSU had the option of offsetting a one-unit shortage in one subject area by completing an extra unit in another subject area. This flexibility was approved to help alleviate undue hardships sometimes encountered by prospective applicants and expires with applicants for fall 1995.

#### Issue 1

One unit of Visual and Performing Arts (VPA) is among the 15 college preparatory units required for admission to the CSU. High school teachers and counselors have expressed concern over the difficulty of identifying appropriate high school courses to meet CSU's Visual and Performing Arts requirement. In 1988, CSU issued a list of titles of courses meeting the VPA requirements. However, there has been continuing confusion about acceptable VPA courses. Since implementation of CSU's 15-unit admission requirement, the percentage of students completing the VPA requirement has increased sharply from 40.5 percent in 1986 to 87.8 percent in 1992. In spite of this increase, many high school counselors and CSU admission officers report that a significant number of students applying for fall 1995 admission have not fulfilled the VPA requirement.

### Recommendation 1

To clarify and simplify the admission process, the Council recommends that Academic Affairs modify the manner in which visual and performing arts courses are identified by accepting courses that, in the judgement of the high schools that offer them, meet the standards articulated in the California Department of Education's Visual and Performing Arts Framework, and the Model Curriculum Standards.

### Issue 2

CSU Bakersfield submitted a request to the Admission Advisory Council to authorize a three-year admission experiment to determine the impact of admitting students who do not meet all CSU college preparatory course requirements but who do meet UC college preparatory course requirement. Both the CSU and UC require completion of a minimum of 15 units of college preparatory courses. The difference between the two sets of admission course requirements is that CSU requires a course in visual and performing arts while the UC includes additional courses in social science and science. The CSU/NACUEO Benchmarking Program recommended that the CSU system accept completion of the college preparatory course pattern required for UC admission as fulfilling CSU college preparatory course requirements to demystify and simplify the admission process for high school students, their parents, and school counselors.

### Recommendation 2

Based upon feedback from high school counselors, campus admission deans and directors, and communicators directly to me from several campus presidents in the context of the CSU Bakersfield request for a three-year admission experiment, the Admission Advisory Council, at its November 16, 1994 meeting, voted to recommend that the Chancellor approve a systemwide three-year admission experiment. The three-year admission experiment will allow students to follow either the CSU or the UC pattern while the CSU engages in discourse within the CSU and between CSU and UC about resolving the dilemma resulting from the two similar but different sets of college preparatory course requirements. If you accept this recommendation, the Admission Advisory Council is prepared to conduct the study of the efficacy of this approach.

### Summary of Council Recommendations

We recommend that you approve the following two Council recommendations:

Recommendation 1

Modify the manner in which visual and performing arts courses are identified by accepting courses that, in the judgement of the high schools that offer them, meet the standards

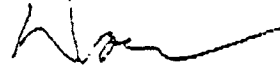
articulated in the California Department of Education's Visual and Performing Arts Framework, and the Model Curriculum Standards.

Recommendation 2

Authorize all CSU campuses to admit the 1995/96 academic year through the 1997/98 academic year applicants completing either the CSU or the UC college preparatory course requirements while discussions within CSU and between CSU and UC are conducted.

The additional flexibility provided campuses by these Council recommendations will address campus concerns that well-prepared students will be denied admission to CSU.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Gerth

DRG/ch

- c. members of the Admission Advisory Council
  - President Arciniega
  - Vice Chancellor Broad
  - Vice Chancellor Hoff
  - Dean Jones
  - Associate Vice Chancellor Lindahl
  - Associate Dean Mack