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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS ANGELES

MEMO

Date: Sept. 23, 2020

To: Talia Bettcher, Academic Senate Chair

From: Arash Jamehbozorg, Educational Policy Committee Chair

Copies: R. Roquemore, M. Hawley, C. Pugh, A. Avramchuk, K. Brown

Subject: Proposed deletion of Characteristics of Master's Degrees Policy, Chapter IV of the Faculty Handbook

On February 5, 2020, Graduate Studies Subcommittee sent EPC a memo proposing changes to the Characteristics of Master's Degrees policy. The changes were prompted by the fact that some new degrees are not included in this policy. After receiving the memo, EPC discussed at length the appropriate language for each degree, and then the conversation was shifted to the usefulness and utility of this policy. After consulting with Dr. Brown, Dean of Graduate Studies, the committee found out that there is no requirement to have such policy in our handbook and since programs do not use these definitions to set their outcomes and the some of the degrees defined in the policy is very vague (due to the fact that it is offered by many programs in several colleges), the committee voted to delete the policy from the handbook.



1 **Characteristics of Master's Degrees**

2 California State University, Los Angeles offers the following master's and doctorate degrees: the
3 Master of Arts, the Master of Business Administration, the Master of Fine Arts, the Master of Music,
4 the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy. All five master's degrees and the doctorate
5 degree require greater depth of study and increased demands on student intellectual or creative
6 capacity than the baccalaureate.*

7 The Master of Art (M.A.) Degree provides a broadened cultural background in a recognized
8 disciplinary field or improvement of professional competence.

9 The Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) Degree provides a program of professional
10 preparation for management positions in business and industry.

11 The Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) Degree provides specialized training and education for artists
12 and designers in design, computer graphics, painting and printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, textiles
13 and metalsmithing.

14 The Master of Music (M.M.) Degree is a professional performance degree that prepares
15 students for professional performance, for teaching in community colleges and for advanced study.

16 The Master of Science (M.S.) Degree provides the opportunity to improve professional
17 competence in areas and approaches involving intense specialization.

18 The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Degree in Special Education, which provides advanced
19 preparation in this diverse professional field is offered jointly with the University of California, Los
20 Angeles.