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**TO:** Josh Machamer, Chair GE Governance Board

**FROM:** Caroline Moore, Director of Cal Poly International Center

**CC:** Mary Pederson, Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Planning  
Brian Tietje, Vice Provost for International, Graduate & Extended Education  
Katie Tool, GE Administrative Support Coordinator

**DATE:** May 9, 2016

**SUBJECT:** General Education credit for language courses on Cal Poly Global Programs

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This memorandum serves as a request to have language courses taken on Cal Poly Global Programs—study abroad programs led by Cal Poly faculty—receive the same consideration as non-Cal Poly language courses taken abroad. Cal Poly students are electing to enroll outside of Global Programs in affiliated partner programs, in CSU International Programs and in International Exchange Programs in order to receive transfer credit toward GE electives. In particular, the current GE Study Abroad Foreign Language Policy states that most “first term (and later) foreign language courses, including upper-division courses, that are non-Cal Poly courses taken abroad will be granted transfer credit toward C1, C2, and/or the C elective at Cal Poly, up to a maximum total of 8 units in Area C, because of the substantial value-added cultural component of these study abroad courses.”

As you are aware, Cal Poly Global Programs allow for direct enrollment in courses (stateside and self-support) through Cal Poly. The above policy has disadvantaged our Global Programs and we have heard specifically from students that they are choosing to withdraw from (or not even apply to) Global Programs when they learn that they can get additional GE credit on non-Global Programs. Students enrolled in Cal Poly language courses during our Global Programs are limited to earning General Education credit only as is defined in the Cal Poly Catalog. For example, the Spanish language courses SPAN 201, SPAN 202, and SPAN 203 commonly offered on Cal Poly Global Programs are classified as GE C5 credit. Students taking Spanish language courses in the 100-level and 300-level on our Cal Poly Global Programs cannot currently earn general education credit like their peers studying abroad on Cal Poly affiliate partner programs, CSU International Programs, and others.

We request an addendum to the policy so that language courses taken on Cal Poly Global Programs receive the same articulation toward GE credit as those taken through our affiliated study abroad partners—see <http://ge.calpoly.edu/study-abroad-foreign-language-course-equivalencies>. The ‘value-added cultural component’ of language courses taken abroad demonstrates Learn by Doing in a global context and we ask that the policy extend to the program model with which we have the most control and oversight.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at [cmoore36@calpoly.edu](mailto:cmoore36@calpoly.edu) or 6-2945. Thank you for your consideration.