The GSEIS Committee on Degrees, Admissions, and Standards (CDAS)
Professor Kathleen Bawn, Chair of the Undergraduate Council

Letter of support for CS 180: Algorithms and Complexity (Online Course Petition)

I write in support of the petition by Glenn Reinman, Professor / Vice Chair for Undergraduate Programs for Computer Science that seeks approval to offer CS 180: Algorithms and Complexity as an Online Synchronous course.

The transition of this course to an Online Synchronous course is supported by the UCLA Online Teaching and Learning team. The UCLA Teaching and Learning Center provides access to instructional designers, media professionals, a production studio, and instructor and TA orientation to new online pedagogical practices and tools.

Glenn's teaching team and the TLC Instructional Design team met to review CS 180: Algorithms and Complexity. In our meeting we discussed strategies to ensure instructor presence, instructor interaction with students, active student learning and engagement, ongoing feedback on progress, and community building elements.

Some of these strategies include:
- Measurable course level outcomes that align with assessments
- Structured activities for Zoom sessions like student-led breakout sessions
- Asynchronous use of Bruin Learn discussions to support student engagement
- Creating rubrics to communicate expectations and improve grading consistency
- Frequent low stakes quizzes to provide students more feedback
- Final project that supports a more sustained investigation of a relevant topic

To support all students, Glenn and his teaching team will complete the Digital Accessibility: Foundations course and meet with the Disability Computing Program to plan the best ways to create accessible course materials. Any videos will be closed-captioned and have transcripts enabled. All readings will be formatted to be screen reader accessible and the course site will use a course template that has already been vetted for accessibility requirements.

In sum, as an approved Online Synchronous course, CS 180: Algorithms and Complexity will provide not only expanded enrollment options and scheduling flexibility but, above all, pedagogical excellence for students, teachers, and scholars of the future.

Sincerely,

Ava Arndt

Interim Director

UCLA Online Teaching & Learning