

Faculty Senate

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Academic Regulations Committee

Annual Report 2007-2008

Members:

Nancy Allen (chair)
Ron Kiel
Kent Kuo (ex-officio)
Bill Lunch
Desiree Tullos

There are three items of business covered in this report.

ITEM #1

Approved by the Faculty Senate on February 14, 2008

NOTE: Proposed additions appear in bold and bracketed; proposed deletions appear in bold and struck-through.

AR 18. Alternative Grading Systems

In addition to traditional letter grading (A-F), Oregon State University has adopted two alternative grading systems to be employed in accordance with the provisions outlined below:

a. Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U)

- Undergraduate students may elect to be graded on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) basis in **[any a]** course **[of their choice]** (except P/N courses) under the following conditions: (a) A maximum of 36 credits of those presented in satisfaction of the baccalaureate degree may have been graded on an S/U basis at Oregon State University. **[The maximum for students transferring to Oregon State University from another institution is equal to the number of terms enrolled as a full-time student at Oregon State University multiplied by three.]**

Rationale: The Academic Advising Council would like to propose a revision of AR 18.a.1 which deals with S/U grading. Currently the regulation states that a student may take up to 36 credits on an S/U basis, unless the student transfers to OSU. In the case of a transfer student, he/she may take a number equal to the number of terms at OSU multiplied by three up to a maximum of 36. This regulation is extremely difficult to explain to students. Now that we are moving to online degree audit, we are finding that it is not possible to automate this type of counting of S/U credits for transfer students. In fact, we have to artificially cap the S/U credits at 20 which in turn makes the online degree audit inaccurate for a number of students. Therefore, we are proposing that the maximum just be set at 36 credits for all students. Most transfer students take primarily major level courses in their last two or three years at OSU. As stated in the proposed regulation, most departments don't allow S/U grading to count for major level courses. In fact, we know of only two departments that allow any S/U grading in the major. We believe that the simplification of the regulation would allow for a more accurate degree audit for everyone. *The ARC did not see any potential problems with this proposal and was approved unanimously.*

Note: The proposed changes apply only to the section listed; the remainder of the AR is unchanged.

Item #2

Approved by the Faculty Senate on February 14, 2008

Revisions to AR 25 - Institutional Requirements for Baccalaureate Degrees

NOTE: Additions appear in bold and bracketed; deletions appear in bold and struck-through.

Proposed Revision #1

c. **Credits:** Minimum 180 [earned credits], which must include: 4, [5]

1. **Credits in upper-division courses:** minimum 60 (exclusive of upper-division physical education activity courses).

Credits in each major: minimum, 36, including at least 24 in upper-division courses.

Proposed Revision #2

Footnote 5 for AR 25.c.

[Unearned credits are those courses for which a grade of "F", "N", "U", "W", "Y", "AUD", or "WAU" are assigned as a final grade for that course. All other grades are calculated as earned credit.]

Rationale for #1 and #2: To remove any assumption that an F grade could be included in the 180 credits required for graduation.

Proposed Revision #3

h. **Restrictions**

5. A maximum of 36 credits of those presented in satisfaction of the baccalaureate degree may have been graded on an S/U basis at Oregon State University. ~~The maximum for students transferring to Oregon State University from another institution is equal to the number of terms enrolled as a full-time student at Oregon State University multiplied by three.~~

Rationale: To be consistent with proposed changes to AR 18.

Note: The proposed changes apply only to the sections listed; the remainder of each AR is unchanged.

Item #3

During the end of the academic year 2006-2007, the Academic Regulations Committee tabled the following request from the Undergraduate Education Council. No action was made on this item in 2007-2008 (see recommendation below). Susie Leslie requested that we look at **Repeated Courses**:

- Consider: Students who want to enroll in a course for the third time would have to have an intervention prior to receiving an override.

Susie Leslie also requested that we look at **Withdrawal "W" After Eight Weeks**:

- Consider: Student may not withdraw from the same course twice.
- Consider: Students who received a "W" in a course would be moved to the bottom of priority registration for the same course. There was concern expressed that this policy angle might affect a students' ability to graduate.

Kent Kuo created a sample table for math courses that had high withdrawal and repeat rates. The Academic Regulations Committee discussed possible explanations for high withdrawal and repeat rates and wanted to know if there were similar patterns in other courses/departments. Kent offered to examine data provided by Jim Coakley and if he finds high withdrawal and repeat rates elsewhere, he will come back to the Academic Regulations Committee with the relevant tables.

Recommendation: Kent Kuo suggested that there are several aspects that need to be addressed, but the important one is the lack of clarity in what the faculty intended when AR 20 was authored. There are many conflicting passages in the AR that should be reviewed next year as well as establishing limits if necessary.