

**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY AGENDA**

<b>Meeting: Academic Standards and Admissions Committee</b>	<b>Key Roles</b>
Date: Wednesday March 17, 2021	Meeting Leader: Terri Boylston
Place: virtual	Support: Laura Bell
Start Time: 2:00 p.m.	End Time: 3:00 p.m.

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>LEADER</b>
Approval of Minutes –March 3, 2021	Vote: Approve, unanimous
<b>• OLD BUSINESS</b>	
1A Winter Session – updates?	No updates were provided at this time.
1B. Graduation with distinction – minimum of 60 ISU credits, with at least 50 credits as graded or Satisfactory-Fail courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved Academic Affairs Council 3/10</li> </ul>	This policy was updated to reflect 50 credits as graded and/or satisfactory-fail courses. This passed the Academic Affairs Council last week.
1C. Drop Limits [20-24] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved, Academic Affairs Council 2/24</li> <li>• Approved FS-EB 3/2</li> <li>• First reading FS 3/9 – discussion to remove drop limits from Vet Med in policy</li> </ul>	This had its first reading at Faculty Senate. They removed the section about drops for Vet Med as this does not pertain to undergraduate work.
1D. Repeat Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will be presented at Academic Affairs Council on ?</li> </ul>	This will be discussed at the next meeting.
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
2A. Policies to discuss Spring 2021	Terri met with Shawn and Jennifer to prioritize policies that need to be addressed this spring and those which will take more time to discuss in the fall. These policies are Academic Renewal, Posthumous Degrees, Stand-alone credits for major and major-minor combinations, and Top 2% recognition.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top 2% Recognition (<a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/gradingsystem/#honorsrecognitiontext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/gradingsystem/#honorsrecognitiontext</a> )</li> </ul>	<p>The information in the catalog share this is recognition for those students who are in the top 2%. The staff member who had been working to identify these students has since retired. The new staff member identified these students and then found there are rules that are not in the catalog.</p> <p>They have been identified for this semester. Jennifer shared the process for this semester and past was correct. Moving forward this committee needs to decide what this needs to be going forward.</p> <p>These students are identified once a year. We are looking at the cumulative gpa, for each college. The student receives a letter from the President and notation is added to their transcript. This is a big scholastic recognition. We need to be transparent in the catalog regarding how this is assigned.</p> <p>There is a Phi Beta Kappa Chapter here. Jennifer has a meeting about all of the scholastic recognitions and the processes historically for these. Knowing the number of students who are Phi Beta Kappa could be used as a baseline.</p>

	<p>CALS students do not qualify for Phi Beta Kappa. There are fair number of science majors and there are a number of students seeking enrollment at professional schools that are seeking Phi Beta Kappa recognition. As CALS students are not LAS students, they are not eligible. The Phi Beta Kappa national organization indicates this is for the best and brightest Liberal Arts and Sciences students.</p> <p>This will need to be addressed right away in the fall to get through the approval process. Moving forward, this policy will be more restrictive if we are going to be more transparent in the catalog. This would go into effect for the next catalog cycle and take effect for the spring 2023 students.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Renewal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be eligible ‘Students must not have graduated from Iowa State University’</li> <li>• Question – are students eligible in they transferred to another university, earned a degree and want to return to ISU?</li> <li>• <a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#reinstate mentrenewaltext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#reinstate mentrenewaltext</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The policy states the student must not have graduated from ISU. We have had students come back to ISU after having graduated from another institution and requesting an academic renewal.</p> <p>For these students to have graduated from another institution they would have had to take their ISU transcript and had these credits apply confer their degree. This in essence locks their record does not seem to make sense that they should be able to come back and have a renewal. However, this can also be argued from a student success standpoint.</p> <p>The previous policy did not address this issue outright. It appeared as though the intent was that this was for students who did not receive their undergrad degree from any other institution to come back, after having been gone for four years, and have some assistance in earning their degree. We have had some students come back who wanted to improve their cumulative GPA and intend to move on to another institution to get their degree.</p> <p>Academic renewal wipes out entire semesters. We are taking away credits earned. Students only do this when they perform very poorly. We are allowing a little bit of a clean slate. These students still have to retake these courses.</p> <p>If we allow these students to do academic renewal and we wipe out their credits, they are using courses that no longer exist at another university.</p> <p>Our courses went to the new school and were used by the new school and went to helping the student to earn a degree at another institution gives pause. What is the intent of this policy? We are not concerned about how they use these courses at another institution. We are only concerned about the student’s record here. We are saying we are not going to use these credits at ISU in the future.</p> <p>For example, a student gets their degree from another institution based on 40% of their credits transferred from ISU. The student then comes back to ISU and does academic renewal. The institution the student transferred from now has an issue if they run a degree audit as this student’s courses no longer exist.</p> <p>When you transfer courses in, those were the courses that existed at the time. The person has voluntarily erased these courses knowing they used these courses for a degree at another institution. We need to look at specific situations to truly understand this.</p> <p>It is rare that this comes up, however, it has come up. To clarify, the courses do not go away on the transcript. The grades and courses stay on the</p>

	<p>transcript, we are adjusting their cumulative totals and cumulative GPA. The student is then potentially using these courses to transfer to another institution to get a degree and we are saying these do not exist.</p> <p>The courses still exist, we are giving the student an opportunity to not be in such a low point to assist them in earning their degree. It appears the intent of the policy was to assist the student in earning their first undergrad degree from ISU. Students don't typically know about academic renewal; we tell them about this option. We have a number of students who do poorly or are dismissed or leave the university. They earned their degree in another major at another institution to obtain a job. The student then returns to ISU to earn their original degree.</p> <p>This diminishes the degree from the other institution. We are depending on the on that institution's record and those courses as being good and accounted for by that institution. We are not saying they were not at the time. It feels as though we are doing harm to the other institution.</p> <p>Some schools will allow the student to transfer in their GPA. Would this become an issue for these school?</p> <p>Students are not doing this when they have a bunch of useful credits. They still have to come up with the credits.</p> <p>U of I is like ISU and states academic renewal is not allowed if the student had their degree from the institution. UNI do not allow academic renewal if the student earned a degree from another institution.</p> <p>This policy was changed from 5 to 4 years. Jonathan pulled data and found that from a retention and completion standpoint, being out less than 4 years, the student was less likely to be retained and complete. There was no difference between requiring the student to be out between 4 and 5 years. We did not look at whether the student earned a degree at another institution.</p> <p>One of the most recent cases Mason saw, the professional school suggested to the student that they do academic renewal as they did not have a qualifying GPA. The student has no intention of earning a degree at ISU other than boosting their GPA. This seems as though this would be an exception to the rule.</p> <p>A student has to demonstrate success, at least 2.0 over 12 credits to get academic renewal. This was added to assist with student success. Students were returning in that first semester and getting renewal. They then did poorly and returned too early and dropped out again or were dismissed. They then came back several years later and wanted academic renewal and were unable to use it.</p> <p><b>Action Item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jennifer will look at other institutions to see what their policies are regarding academic renewal.</li> <li>• Jennifer will provide example cases for review that brought this issue up.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Posthumous degree</li> </ul>	<p>For undergraduates the policy is the student must be 18 credits away from graduation. We have had more students passing away recently than we have historically. There have been more of these students who have not qualified</p>

	<p>for a posthumous degree as they did not meet this requirement. This becomes a very awkward and difficult conversation to have with the family.</p> <p>We could look at a proposal regarding making this less restrictive. We would want to look at what are the requisite credits. The minimum credits for conferring a degree to a student is 32 credits. We could also look at the number of semesters as you have part time students who progress at a different rate.</p> <p>There is a proposal to change this to within 32 credits from graduating. Jennifer will provide a number of posthumous degrees requested recently. This is unlike other situations where we have to maintain academic standards as in situations where we give the degree the person is going out and representing the university. We could change this to allowing a posthumous degree for students who have completed 32 credits at ISU. This is an extraordinarily hard situation. In past discussions with Faculty Senate there were concerns about opening this up too far. This would be valuable to the family. Also, this could assist families through their grieving process. If the student is a transfer student, you are bringing in credits.</p> <p>We cannot determine what this means for a family. This does not cost the university but what the paper the degree is printed on. This could signal an important thing for a family to have this to hang on the wall. It is a decency and kindness we can offer to the families. If the family requests this it is important to them. Some families do not request this at all, and it is something extended by the college. We do not automatically grant this; we wait for the family to share they would be like the degree. We had a couple students who were terminally ill and knew they were not going to make it to graduation and so we awarded them the degree. We have had more death notices in the past 12 months, and we are unsure if this is COVID related or not. There just seems to be an uptick.</p> <p>We will address this again at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Action Item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jennifer will look at the student death notices from the last 12 months and indicate the how many credits the student had earned at the time of their passing.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stand-alone credits for dual majors and major-minor combinations <a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#degreeplanningtext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#degreeplanningtext</a></li> </ul>	<p>The Registrar Degree Audit team will identify programs that are different by one or two classes and compile a list. This is also a curricular issue as well in some ways. We will want to talk with the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee as well. Jennifer can find information about when this restriction was lifted from the catalog. This will be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Action Item:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jennifer will talk with Degree Audit about programs that have significant overlap from a standalone credit standpoint.</li> <li>Jennifer will look to see when this was pulled from the catalog.</li> </ul>
<p>2B. Policies to discuss Fall 2021</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transfer Deficiencies <a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/admissions/#transfercreditstext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/admissions/#transfercreditstext</a></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Midterm Grade Reporting vs Early Alert</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instructor signatures – drops/adds</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progress/Probation/Warning and Reinstatement Policies</li> </ul>	
<p>2C. Policy/Issue Prioritization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 100 Ideas in 100 Days discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the policy that allows Academic Standards Committee in each college to set higher GPA and other requirements for re-admitting students (following dismissal) – consistency across colleges - table to 2021-2022 – to be addressed by Probation Communications work group (SB)</li> <li>• Review and revise the Progress/Probation/Warning Policy – differences for students with &gt; 75 credits – The entire policy needs reviewing – table to 2021-2022 – to be addressed by Probation Communications work group (SB)</li> <li>• Maximum credit limit per term (18 cr – undergrad) – while exceptions are allowed, this could be an obstacle for some high-achieving students and may impact time to degree – also should there be different limits for students on probation/warning or reinstated? (<a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#limitsholdtext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#limitsholdtext</a> )</li> <li>• Review policy for transfer deficiencies</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Other Policies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Integrity – online courses/exams</li> <li>• Academic Renewal</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- To be eligible ‘Students must not have graduated from Iowa State University’
- Question – are students eligible in they transferred to another university, earned a degree and want to return to ISU?  
<https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#reinstatementrenewaltext>
- Posthumous degree
- Academic misconduct – sanction for students dropping courses who have been accused of academic misconduct  
[https://catalog.iastate.edu/academic\\_conduct/#academicdishonestytext](https://catalog.iastate.edu/academic_conduct/#academicdishonestytext)

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

Meetings on Wednesdays at 2:00-3:00 PM  
 March 31  
 April 14  
 April 28