

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY MINUTES

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

TOPIC	LEADER
Approval of Minutes –November 11, 2020	Approved
• OLD BUSINESS	
1A Winter Session – updates?	
1B. Graduation with distinction (20-10) – approved by Faculty Senate 12/12/20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinction based on cumulative grade point average after all degree requirement have been satisfied • BS Nursing may graduate with distinction provided they have completed 32 credits of coursework at ISU 	The levels of distinction are to be based on the level of distinction at the time of graduation. The BSN students will have the ability to graduate with distinction based on their 32 credits of coursework at ISU.
1B. Graduation with distinction – transfer students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer students – feeling unfairly discriminated against by the 60-credit hour threshold requirement (50-credits graded) for graduation with distinction • Jonathan – data regarding transfer students and graduation with distinction 	Transfer students are feeling discriminated against. One student shared they had 60 credits at ISU but not 50 graded credits at ISU. The committee will continue this discussion at the next meeting. Action Item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jonathan will research data: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The number of transfer students who enroll. ○ How many ISU graded credits they have at graduation? ○ How many ISU transfer students graduate with distinction?
1C. Drops and Drop Limits and Repeat Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Policy – Drop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All undergraduates – 5 courses to drop • Lecture and laboratory courses which are offered as separate courses, but are required to be taken concurrently are considered as one course drop • Proposed Policy – Repeats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase from 15 to 18 credits for repeats • Course initially taken for a grade must be repeated as a graded course 	Drop and Drop Limits: Students will need to work with their advisor to request an extra drop, if the student has to drop a lab that is tied in with a lecture. This would apply to lab and lecture courses that have to be completed concurrently. We do not want standalone 1 credit courses, i.e., Library and other 1 credit courses, to be targeted by the policy. It is the policy of the department as to whether a lecture and lab have to be taken concurrently. There are some students who get credit for just taking the lab. For students who are in a lecture and lab that are not required to be taken at the same time would be assessed 2 drops. We will look at the language the Chemistry department uses to address these requirements for taking a lab and lecture at the same time. We will use this language for our messaging of this policy change.

In Biology, students can take the lecture and the lab separately, however, students are strongly encouraged to take both at the same time. For example, students could take the lecture one semester and then the lab the next semester.

For students who choose to change majors and drop their courses which include lectures and labs that are not required to be taken concurrently, these students would be assessed the number of drops appropriate for each course. For example, they would be assessed 2 drops for dropping a biology lecture and lab.

Based on data provided by Jonathan, very few students use all of their drops. Students have the opportunity to appeal for an additional drop.

A student's drops do not count in their first term. This applies to both freshman and transfer students.

At this time, we will leave the Vet Med students at 4 credits.

Drop Policy Vote: Unanimous approval. This will be shared with Academic Affairs.

Repeat Credits:

It is appropriate to make it credits just for repeats. If the student initially took a course for a grade, they must repeat it for a grade. For example, this would address situations where a student takes a graded course and then retakes the course P/NP.

When discussing courses plus credits, we discussed increasing the credits to 18 credits. Engineering has a number of 4 credit courses that are most often repeated. Increasing this to 18 credits will allow students who take 3 credit courses an extra course. The change by this is a change to the student's cumulative GPA.

Most students outside of the sciences take 3 credit courses. As this is the case, why focus on the number of credits rather than on the number of courses. GPA's are calculated based on credits rather. Repeated courses would change a student's cumulative GPA. This is why we are focusing on changing the credits rather than courses.

As much as we want to have continuity between the drop and repeat policies it is best to keep these separate. Does the Registrar have to process these changes do they have to process by course or by credit? If you take a course, it either qualifies if you have repeats left or not. The standards of how GPA's are calculated are by credit. Keeping a course and credit limit may cause issues for the Registrar's Office. In terms of how this impacts the Registrar's Office, it is more a question of whether IT is able to address this issue for the office.

Looking at the data, whether it is 15 or 18 credits, 98% of seniors had fewer repeats, in the terms of number of credits repeated. Jennifer surveyed other universities and it appears our policy is very liberal. Changing to 18 credits may not affect that many

students. However, this could be a benefit to those students who do not have a strong academic background.

Courses initially taken for a grade must be repeated as a graded course. In general, there are very few credits students in Engineering can take P/NP. Anything that is required by the university or technical course by Engineering students cannot be taken as P/NP. There are very few courses, 9 credits maximum, can be taken as P/NP by Engineering students. If a student initially took a course and received an F, why could they not retake it for P/NP? If a student changed their major, took a course that was required for their major and it is now not required, why could they not retake the course as P/NP.

Most often this will affect students who retake a course to raise their GPA. There are students who decide they are applying to Grad school will use their repeat credits to increase their GPA.

Some classes are limited for enrollment due to capacity and you have students who are retaking the course to change their GPA, they are taking a seat from a student who needs the course to graduate.

What if a student fails the course, retakes it as a P/NP and puts no effort into the course the second time, gets an NP does this remove the F from their GPA?

If a student takes the course for a grade and retakes it P/NP they are gaming the system. The student is not seeing that much of a benefit to this in regard to changing their GPA.

How difficult will it be to program this change?

Looking at the repeat data, there are 721 where the subsequent time taking a course was a P and the first was a graded. There are 333 where it was an NP. About 1000 cases out of 30,000 cases of repeated courses over 6 years. There is not an understanding of how much programming this change would take. Shawna will reach out to IT to inquire.

If the GPA is not changed that much, why not allow the student to retake these courses as P/NP? Due to concerns about enrollment and capacity in some courses, faculty time, we would hope this would discourage students from retaking courses just to increase their GPA. If they have to re-take the course for a grade this may make students take this more seriously.

NEW BUSINESS

2A. Transfer Deficiencies
<https://catalog.iastate.edu/admissions/#transfercredittext>

2B. Last 32 Credits
<https://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#graduationtext>

2C. Policy/Issue Prioritization

- From 100 Ideas in 100 Days discussion

- 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
- Review and revise the Progress/Probation/Warning Policy – differences for students with > 75 credits – The entire policy needs reviewing
- 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? (<https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#limitsholdstext>)
- Review policy for transfer deficiencies
- Drop limit – consistency across colleges, change from class count to credit count, should there be a drop limit? 5 drops for new direct students, 4 for transfer students (<https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#limitsholdstext>)
- 32 credit rule. If 12 credits are required for full-time status, and an average credit load is 15 credits, then perhaps we could consider bringing this down to the final 30 credits, In now 24 credits completed at ISU. Otherwise, students are required to take two-16 credit semesters. Also, as it is noted in the catalog, we are allowed to waive 6 credits with permission. Since the catalog automatically makes an allowance for 6 credits to be waived, It would make sense to drop this down.
- Other Policies
 - Academic Integrity – online courses/exams
 - Academic Renewal
 - 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/#reinstatementrenewalttext>

- Designated repeats – change from credit count to class count, limit number of times a course can be repeated, graded to Pass/Not Pass? (<https://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/gradingsystem/#gradeolicies> text)
- Posthumous degree
- Academic misconduct – sanction for students dropping courses who have been accused of academic misconduct (<https://catalog.iastate.edu/academicconduct/#academicdishonestytext>)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings on Wednesdays at 2:00-3:00 PM

Feb. 17

March 3

March 17

March 31

April 14

April 28