

## IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY MINUTES

Meeting: Academic Standards and Admissions Committee	Key Roles
Date: Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2020	Meeting Leader: Terri Boylston
Place: virtual	Support: Laura Bell
Start Time: 2:00 p.m.	End Time: 3:00 p.m.

TOPIC	LEADER
Introductions	
Approval of Minutes –October 14, 2020	Motion to approve: Townsend, Selby (second) Approved unanimously
<b>• OLD BUSINESS</b>	
1A. Graduation with Distinction policy change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved by Academic Affairs Council 10-23-2020</li> </ul>	Voted on by Academic Affairs Council last week and approved. This will move on to the Executive Board next.
1B Winter Session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Dismissal Decisions and Time Line (see ‘Academic Dismissal Decisions and Timeline’)</li> </ul>	<p>We are looking at academic dismissal decisions and the timeline. Grades for fall semester are due the week of December 9<sup>th</sup>. Academic standing jobs will run the evening of December 9<sup>th</sup> and be available to the colleges the next morning. The colleges are being asked to prioritize their reviews to identify those students who need to be dropped. This will allow for students who are enrolled in winter session courses to be identified first. This information will be provided to the Office of the Registrar by December 11<sup>th</sup> by 4:30 p.m. By no later than January 8<sup>th</sup> the final drop list will be shared with the Office of the Registrar for all students via CyBox.</p> <p>Please share this information with your colleges to ask if this timeline is feasible. This document was included in the meeting invitation email. Feedback will be provided at the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.</p>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
2A. Drops and Drop Limits and Repeat Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drop limit: <a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#limitsholdstext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/registration/#limitsholdstext</a></li> <li>• Repeats: <a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/gradingsystem/#gradepoliciestext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/academiclife/gradingsystem/#gradepoliciestext</a></li> <li>• Drop – Repeat policies – Peer institutions</li> </ul>	<p>Jennifer surveyed peer institutions. The links provided in the agenda are to our current policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Out of 20 universities, none shared they have a drop limit. We allow courses to be repeated. Some of the institutions who responded to the survey do not allow students to repeat courses. There are faculty in the engineering college who feel we should not allow students to repeat courses. This may encourage students to take the course more seriously. This could also create an issue regarding grade inflation.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion regarding the current drop limit (difference between transfer and freshman students) and a proposal to make this the same for all students. Allow 5 drops for all students. Additionally, a proposal to have an either/or option for number of drops or credit limits. Would go by whichever is met first, number of courses or number of credits.</p> <p>Engineering transfer students are not very successful in being able to transfer more than one year of courses and</p>

often need more drops. The most common request received from students is for additional drops.

- This change would allow equity among students. Many students who transfer, attended community colleges due to financial constraints.
- Jonathan provided data on this issue in 2018. Based on the data, with the exception of a few outliers, the majority of students did not use all of their drops. This data does not include administrative drops.
  - In 2018 there were 169 students out of the graduating class who used 6 or more drops. These students were likely granted additional drops. These students would be able to work with their colleges to seek a waiver. This data shows the graduating students. We need to look at the number of students in period 2, compared to those who are enrolled, who are using a period drop.
  - Additional data was shared based on drops used by enrolled students by classification and additional drops provided. Less than 2% have used all of their drops. Among seniors, approximately 4% used all of their drops.
  - According to the additional drops given, 31 total students in Fall 2018 were given additional drops.
- When colleges give an additional drop they are allowing for an additional drop. An administrative drop is when the course is removed entirely from the record. For the vast majority of courses, they do not want to remove the course from the record.

Course availability used to be an issue for students on campus (in the 1980's). Limited course availability prevented students from being able to graduate on time. These policies may have been created in response to this issue.

There are concerns from faculty about removing the drop limit and an increase in drops. Some faculty came from institutions where there were not drop limits and did not see this as an issue.

Engineering is experiencing an increase in policy waivers for drops. These students do not know how they are performing in a course until too late in the semester.

Some of the deans have been discussing the deadline for dropping a course. Other institutions have later deadlines for dropping a course rather than two weeks after midterm. Right now, we are probably experiencing an increase in requests due to the pandemic and students not being able to navigate their courses as they typically would.

	<p>There are concerns about students who are dropping courses due to their perception that they will not be able to pass the course, when they really will be able to pass due to a number of reasons.</p> <p>Is there a value of having a limit on the number of drops based on the data? The Vet College did not feel there was a need to increase their number of drops. This is a professional program which is different from undergrad.</p> <p>There is some value in having a finite number of repeats allowed as long as it is equitable among all students. This should be generously set. There are often times when students repeat courses due to a mismatched relationship with the instructor.</p> <p>Some universities only allow a course to be repeated if they get 2.0 or below. There are often students who will repeat courses who received a C or a B in the course and taking the course again to try to increase their GPA.</p> <p>We need to be thoughtful about setting a limit on the course gpa for repeats. There are some courses that require a specific gpa to be able to take the course. Most of the minimum gpas for courses to be able to move on is a C-. We could set this conditionally, where a student could repeat the course until they meet the required gpa for the course.</p> <p>Action Items;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jonathan will provide data regarding the number of times a student repeats the same course. The original grade of the course they are repeating, drops and repeats data, sorted by college.</li> <li>○ Jonathan will look at the data and provide more current information on the number of drops and the number of repeats students are using.</li> </ul>
<p>2B. Transfer Deficiencies  <a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/admissions/#transfercreditstext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/admissions/#transfercreditstext</a></p>	
<p>2C. Last 32 Credits  <a href="https://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#graduationtext">https://catalog.iastate.edu/academics/#graduationtext</a></p>	
<p>2D. 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</li> <li>• Review and revise the Progress/Probation/Warning Policy – differences for students with &gt; 75 credits – The entire policy needs reviewing</li> <li>• Maximum credit limit per term (18 cr – undergrad) – while exceptions are</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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/#reinstatementrenewaltext>
  - 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/#gradepoliciesstext> )
  - Posthumous degree
  - Academic misconduct – sanction for students dropping courses who have been accused of academic misconduct  
([https://catalog.iastate.edu/academic\\_conduct/#academicdishonestystext](https://catalog.iastate.edu/academic_conduct/#academicdishonestystext) )

Spring Semester Course start times

The revised start times for courses will be maintained for Spring 2021 and through Fall 2021. This is to allow for additional passing time.

	<p>These revised times are not meeting the concerns that were anticipated. The change is causing confusion as to when classes are set to start. Conversely, there are some who have found this time change to be very helpful and would like this to be a permanent change.</p> <p>Ann Marie Van Der Zanden would be the person to take these concerns to as well as Shawn Boyne.</p>
	<p>The Board of Regents decided admission would be test optional for the Fall 2021 cycle. This test optional status will remain for the next admission cycle as well.</p> <p>This is creating some challenges with English language placement, honors placement and scholarship awards.</p>
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	
<p>Nov. 4 Nov. 11</p>	