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Revised Policy for Course Withdrawal

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Georgia Southern University

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Approved by the Senate: 11/27/2017

Approved by the President: 11/29/2017

Revised Policy for Course Withdrawal

Submitted by: Kelly Sullivan/Academic Standards Committee

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478-7902

11/14/2017

Motion:

The Academic Standards Committee recommends that the University adopt a revised policy for course withdrawals. The SEC moves to accept the recommendation of the revised Course Withdrawal Policy.

Rationale:

OWG 6-6 recommend that the new Institution adopt a policy on limiting individual course withdrawals that is modeled after the current Georgia Southern University policy on limiting individual course withdrawals. OWG 6-6 also recommended that the new Institution adopt a policy on withdrawing from courses that incorporates both the Georgia Southern and Armstrong State current procedures. The Academic Standards Committee along with our counterparts from Armstrong was charged with drafting these policies for the new Georgia Southern. The attached policy drafts have been co-created with our colleagues and passed by at least a majority voted by both voting bodies as policy drafts to move forward to our respective Faculty Senate.

Response:

Minutes 11/27/2017

a. Revised Policy for Course Withdrawal Attachment: Dropping or Withdrawing from Courses
Pirro noted that this and the following motions were worked out with the equivalent committee at Armstrong. The motion: "The Academic Standards Committee recommends that the University adopt a revised policy for course withdrawals." The rationale: "OWG 6-6

recommends that the new Institution adopt a policy on limiting individual course withdrawals that is modeled after the current Georgia Southern University policy on limiting individual course withdrawals. It also recommended that the new Institution adopt a policy on withdrawing from courses that incorporates both the Georgia Southern and Armstrong State current procedures. The Academic Standards Committee along with our counterparts from Armstrong was charged with drafting these policies for the new Georgia Southern. The attached policy drafts have been co-created with our colleagues and passed by at least a majority voted by both voting bodies as policy drafts to move forward to our respective Faculty Senate.”

Mark Edwards (COSM) said the main difference was that the number of withdrawals has been increased to six from five.

Janice Steirn (CLASS) asked if that number included summer withdrawals. Edwards said it did.

Robert Costomiris (CLASS) noted that only withdrawals incurred at Georgia Southern University count towards the maximum number of withdrawals; withdrawals incurred prior to the implementation date (Fall 2018) will not count toward students' number of allowed withdrawals. He wanted to know what that meant in practice: Could a student have 10 or 11 withdrawals?

Christine Ludowise (Provost’s office) noted that in the past when we have changed policies it has resulted in a “reset” for all students so that none would be negatively impacted by the change; “this policy will take effect in fall and all previous withdrawals will be on their transcript, but will not count towards their limited withdrawal.”

Costomiris said this recommendation seemed to conflate current and future policies unnecessarily.

Marc Cyr (CLASS) said that if he understood the issue correctly, the reset is being done in fairness to currently enrolled students who are working under two different policies, but that after x amount of time all students at Georgia Southern, no matter where they are, will work under one policy. For those currently enrolled who want to withdraw from classes, it’s like “they won a minor lottery.”

Costomiris said, “Thank you, Dr. Cyr. But, again, we are talking out of both sides of our mouths.” He thought current students should have to abide by the current system.

Ludowise said that would negatively impact Armstrong and Hinesville/Liberty Center campus students. Withdrawals have not been counted against them so they might move forward with no opportunities to withdraw left to them. Steirn disagreed, saying that if we maintain current policies current Armstrong students would continue not having withdrawals counted against them, while Statesboro students would know how many withdrawals they have under current policies. New students would come in under the new policy. She noted that one reason for GSU's current policy was to stop students from shopping for classes and thereby preventing other students from getting classes they need, and she thought this practice might revive if the motion passes.

Ludowise said that BANNER experts have said that once the two BANNER systems merge, we can't differentiate between students, so either we hold everybody to five or we reset everybody.

Costomiris said, "It always gets down to BANNER." Ludowise said, "It does."

Michelle Haberland (CLASS) was concerned about the "unfortunate impression" that could be given that as a consequence of consolidation students were using HOPE money to shop for classes. Ludowise said this had been discussed, but we had been assured that HOPE looks at attempted hours and withdrawals count in attempted hours, so it shouldn't affect HOPE but could impact the students' financial aid.

Helen Bland (JPHCOPH) wondered "what's wrong with hitting the reset button every once in awhile." Costomiris said, "RPG."

The motion was Approved.

Attachment: Dropping or Withdrawing from Courses