

September 19, 2007

Dear Academic Senators and Campus Senate Chairs:

A CSU task force consisting of faculty, staff, administrators and a student recently completed a study of System policies and practices regarding course Drops, Withdrawals, Incompletes, and Repeats (DWIR.) The results of this study along with recommended CSU System policy changes and background information on current System policies that provide a context for the Report are attached. The Report can also be found at the following link entitled – Academic Affairs: Related Documents <http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/RelatedDocs.shtml>.

The ASCSU will be offering its recommendations regarding these issues to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees as the document is transformed into an Executive Order. We ask that you help us evaluate the implications of the Task Force recommendations by responding to the Report.

Note that the Report proposes several System policy changes:

Incompletes:

- Be more vigilant to inform and enforce current policy.
- (The second recommendation just highlights current policy.)

Withdrawals:

- Students may withdraw from a maximum of 18 semester units (27 qtr.)
- Withdrawal from a full semester of coursework counts as 6 of the 18 units; subsequent withdrawals are fully counted toward the 18 unit max.
- Withdrawals prior to transfer count for up to 10 of the 18 unit max.
- Withdrawals beyond the 18 unit maximum results in grades of “F” or “WU”.
- Campuses may be more restrictive than the maxima listed above.

Repeats:

- Only 24 semester units can be repeated (36 qtr.)
- Beyond 24 repeated units, students would not be able to enroll in the course under the state supported fee structure (e.g. they may have to pay extended university rates).
- Repeat-with-forgiveness applies to no more than 16 units (24 qtr.)
- Courses can only be repeated if the previous grade was lower than “B–“.
- Courses prior to transfer count toward these totals.
- Campuses may be more restrictive than the maxima listed above.

CSU Campuses

Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus

September 20, 2007
Page 2

Many of these proposals stem from Facilitating Graduation efforts by the CSU and the 2006 report, "The Toolbox Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School through College" by Clifford Adelman of the U.S. Department of Education (<http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/research/pubs/toolboxrevisit/toolbox.pdf>). The report argues that the accumulation of DWIR "grades" on a student transcript is inversely correlated with student success.

We understand that these proposals will affect some CSU campuses differently from others. We are particularly interested in the following issues as we contemplate the Senate's response to these changes:

1. Can these changes be effectively implemented on your campus (likely by integration into current CMS processes?)
2. Are these proposals effective ways to steward CSU System resources?
3. Are these proposals consistent with progress-to-degree goals?
4. What positive and negative impacts do you predict if these proposals are accepted as offered in the Report?
5. Are there clear definitions of Drops, Withdrawals, Incompletes, and the various types of Repeats in your campus policies? Are these definitions communicated clearly to faculty and students? How?

We encourage you to consult widely as you contemplate a response. Faculty with significant advising experience and staff in your Admissions, Advising, and Articulation offices may be especially helpful.

Please send your responses to:
Dr. James Postma, Chair
ASCSU Academic Affairs Committee
jpostma@csuchico.edu

Responses need not be in a formal or polished form. We would appreciate a response by October 11, 2007.

Sincerely,



Barry Pasternack
Chair
Academic Senate CSU

CSU Campuses

Bakersfield
Channel Islands
Chico
Dominguez Hills
East Bay

Fresno
Fullerton
Humboldt
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Maritime Academy

Monterey Bay
Northridge
Pomona
Sacramento
San Bernardino
San Diego

San Francisco
San José
San Luis Obispo
San Marcos
Sonoma
Stanislaus