**Academic Standards Committee (ASC) meeting**

**January 8, 2015 at 10:10am**

**Minutes**

The ASC convened at 10:10am and had two items on the agenda: review of appeals and discussion of the recently changed BOR Academic Renewal Policy.

Changes to the BOR Academic Renewal Policy went into effect on August 20, 2014. The ACS was charged with reviewing the GSU’s Academic Renewal Policy and making the necessary changes to align GSU’s policy with the USG changes.

Diana Cone presented a summary of the changes to the USG policy. The ASC discussed the changes to the ARP based on the recommendations of the ARP workgroup (Academic Renewal Policy and Procedure. Policy and Procedure overview. USG, May 2014, pg. 5)

**Recommendation One:** Establish a flexible period of absence to be no less than three (3) years and

no more than five (5) years. The institution may choose a time period in this window that is appropriate

for its mission, population of students being served, and other relevant factors. The current

five-year period of absence was based on what was common at other institutions across the nation at the time. However, this figure is not based on data or research that indicates that five years is the necessary amount of time a student should be absent. This change provides institutions with more flexibility for determining the period of absence.

**Current GSU policy:** 5-year period of absence (p. 1b in Academic Renewal policy)

**Motion to change the 5-year period of absence to a 3-year period of absence. John Brown. Second: John King. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion to adjust the Academic Standing Policy Exclusion 2 period of absence to 3-years to correspond with the change in the Academic Renewal Policy. John Brown. Second: John King. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Motion to make changes to the 3-year period of absence instead of 5-year period of absence in the entire Academic Renewal Policy. John Brown. Second: Sally Ann Brown. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Recommendation Two:** Students should be encouraged to apply for Academic Renewal as soon as possible at the time of re-enrollment or enrollment. The institution can determine the deadline to apply but that deadline should be no less than one calendar year after enrollment. Current procedure states that a student has three semesters or one calendar year, whichever comes first, to apply for Academic Renewal. However a student may not be aware that Academic Renewal is an option or may decide later to pursue Academic Renewal. This change provides more discretion to those institutions that may want to provide students a longer window to apply.

**Current GSU policy:** If a student does not request Academic Renewal status at the time of re-enrollment after a five year or greater period of absence from any post-secondary institution, the student may do so by the end of the second semester of reenrollment or within one calendar year, whichever comes first. The Academic Renewal GPA begins with the first semester following re-enrollment (p. 2 in Academic Renewal Policy)

**Motion to change GSU policy and remove the reference to semester deadline and leave the one calendar year deadline to match the one calendar year deadline in the BOR policy. Marshall Ransom. Second: Diana Cone. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Recommendation Three**: Allow transfer students from regionally accredited institutions of higher education to be eligible for Academic Renewal. Students in this category should be held to the same period of absence. However, because these students are not returning to their home institution, the period of absence should apply to their coursework. Only coursework completed prior to the period of eligibility would be considered for Academic Renewal.

and

**Recommendation Five:** If Academic Renewal is granted at one USG institution, it should be honored at another USG institution to ensure system consistency.

Current GSU policy: The student must reenroll at the same institution in which he/she experienced the

problems and must not have attended any post-secondary institution for at least five calendar years prior to re-enrolling(second sentence in Academic Renewal Policy).

**Motion to remove the sentence above from the GSU policy to allow Academic Renewal granted at any USG institution to be honored by GSU. Sally Ann Brown. Second: Danda Rawat. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Recommendation Four:** Allow students to be eligible for a renewed grade point average and earn

transient credits for courses taken during the period of absence or from other institutions.

Current GSU policy. Academic credit for previously completed course work including transfer course work will be retained only for courses in which an "A", "B", "C", or "S" grade has been earned. Retained grades are not calculated in the Academic Renewal GPA, but are counted in the Academic Renewal Hours Earned (1d. GSU Academic Renewal Policy)

**The catalog states that no transfer credit will be assigned while students are on E1 or E2. Catalog needs to be changed to reflect changes in the Academic Renewal Policy upon approval. Diana Cone will address this issue with Enrollment Management.**

**Recommendation Six**: Institutions should determine a process for approving and denying Academic Renewal applications as well as a process for students to re-apply for Academic Renewal if they have been denied. Institutions should determine, as part of the application process, if a student has demonstrated readiness and has the potential to be successful if granted Academic Renewal.

Current GSU policy: Policy already specifies that students have to apply for Academic Renewal and GSU has an Academic Renewal Application (attached). Registrar’s office will adjust the Academic Renewal Application to reflect changes in Academic Renewal Policy.

**Recommendation Seven:** Institutions should determine if a student with Academic Renewal is eligible for honors at graduation according to their institutional policies particularly given that these policies vary widely.

Current GSU policy: The Academic Renewal GPA will be used for determining academic standing and eligibility for graduation. At least 50% of work toward a degree must be completed after the granting of Academic Renewal for a student to be eligible for honors at graduation (1c)

**Motion to add an additional sentence that “overall GPA (all GSU and transfer) will be used to determine if students are eligible for honors at graduation”. Sally Ann Brown. Second: John King. Motion approved unanimously.**

**Time for implementation of changes to Academic Renewal Policy and to E2 in Academic Standing Policy: as soon as approved by the Faculty Senate**

Motion to adjourn – John Brown. Second: John King. Meeting adjourned at 11:55am.

Submitted by Diana Sturges