

MOTION FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

RATIONALE

This idea for this policy was first proposed by the First Year Task Force AY 2006-2007. It is really tied in with approved policies, such as the no adjusted GPA, in moving our students toward academic excellence. The Academic Standards Committee believes that this policy will also increase student retention, progression, and graduation rates, and in turn improve the allocation of university resources. The committee believes that the current university policy, which allows students an unlimited number of withdrawals, is overly generous. Because students may withdraw from classes an unlimited number of times without penalty, an incentive is created to “over-use” the current withdrawal policy, thus elongating the student’s enrollment at GSU. RPG is therefore negatively affected.

This policy proposes that any undergraduate students be limited to five (5) withdrawals during his/her entire tenure at the University. This amounts to (assuming 3 hour courses) allowing withdrawals of 12% of the hours required for graduation. Exceptions will be granted for such reasons as military or medical withdrawals. In addition, exceptions may be granted above the 5 course limit by the student's dean. Summer courses will not count toward the five course limit as these are typically sufficiently compacted in time frames as to constitute a different set of circumstances.

We are not alone in the System in instituting such a policy. UGA has instituted a 4 course limit effective Fall 08; Kennesaw has an 8 course limit. The full draft policy will be posted to the Senate website.

The policy was unanimously approved by the Academic Standards Committee at it May 19, 2008 meeting. Proposed implementation is for Fall 2009.

Note: additional material has been sent by mail to the SEC.

This motion submitted by Pat Humphrey on behalf of the Academic Standards Committee and Mark Yanochik (Summer 2008 Chair)

TELEPHONE NUMBER: 85020

EMAIL: myanochi@georgiasouthern.edu