**Proposed Changes to the Undergraduate**

**Academic Standing Policy**

**Presented to:**

**The Faculty Senate**

June 9, 2010

**1 Charge of the Committee**

It was requested by the Office of the Provost for the Academic Standards Committee (ASC) to review the Georgia Southern University academic standing policies. One of our goals of reviewing the academic standings is to determine ways to simplify and streamline the policy. The ASC began this process in the Fall of 2008.

Once the proposed academic policies are finalized by the ASC, Mike Deal would like to share them with Dr. Heaston and Dr. Thompson so that he can discuss what data may be needed prior to presentation to the Dean’s Council and the Enrollment Management Council. Eventually, the proposed changes will need to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate, President's Cabinet for discussion/recommendation/approval. Other groups may be required to review these changes as well.

Listed below are the responsibilities of the Academic Standards Committee:

SECTION 15. The responsibilities of the ACADEMIC STANDARDS COMMITTEE shall be as follows:

1. review and recommend policy and procedures concerning academic standards as they affect the overall academic integrity of the University;
2. recommend policy and procedures and act upon appeals concerning admissions, academic suspension and academic exclusion, special admission and readmission, and provisional and probationary procedures;
3. address other specific questions in this area that may be requested by the Senate Executive Committee; and
4. report to the Librarian, the Senate Executive Committee, and the Senate as described in Article IV, Section 3.

SECTION 16. Voting membership of the Academic Standards Committee shall be composed of senators or alternates representing each college or the library, one per unit, appointed by the Senate Executive Committee and faculty members elected by and representing each college and the library, one per unit. Non-voting membership shall be composed of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, or his/her delegate, who shall vote in the case of a tie among voting members of the committee, and the Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, or his/her delegate. The chair shall be a senator elected by the voting members of the committee.

1. **Review of the Current Academic Standing Policy & the Proposed Academic Standing Policy**
2. **A flowchart of the current academic standing policy is attached.**

The current academic standing policy is a cumbersome and confusing process. At present, students are entitled to two appeals (Academic Standards Committee & the Dean of the College). Following the first exclusion, students are dismissed for one semester. After the second exclusion, the current policy dismisses students for a maximum of one year (3 semesters). However, these students are allowed to return to Georgia Southern the next year. Theoretically, the current policy enables students to remain at Georgia Southern indefinitely. The Academic Standards Committee views this perpetual cycle as an ethical issue because students are readmitted with little, or no, possibility of graduating from Georgia Southern. Therefore, it is recognized that the current academic standing policy is not in the best interest of a students’ professional development.

1. **A flowchart of the proposed academic standing policy is attached.**

The proposed standing policy is more streamlined and holds the student to a higher academic standard congruent with expectations at Georgia Southern University. The number of appeals available to students has been reduced to only one, and the proposed policy addresses the ethical issue inherent in the existing policy by removing students who will never graduate from Georgia Southern. This forces students to seriously consider alternatives for higher education.

1. **Differences in exclusions and appeals between the current and proposed policy.**

**Current Policy**

Exclusion 1 (E1) the student must sit out for one semester

Exclusion 2 (E2) the student must sit out for one academic year (ie - three

semesters)

**Proposed Policy**

Exclusion 1 (E1) the student must sit out for one academic year (three

semesters)

Exclusion 2 (E2) the student is dismissed from Georgia Southern University

permanently unless he or she has not had an approved appeal. If the student has already has an approved appeal the student can return to Georgia Southern University after five (5) years after using the Academic Renewal Policy.

1. **Potential Impact of Policy Implementation**

**EXCLUSIONS AND APPEALS**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term | Current Policy | Proposed Policy | | | |
|  | **Total Exclusion**  **Current Policy** | **Total Exclusion Proposed Policy** | One Appeal (E1) | Two Appeals (E2) | Students Not Eligible to Attend  (E3) |
| Fall 05 | **0** | **0** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spring 06 | **13** | **0** | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Summer 06 | **17** | **71** | 71 | 0 | 0 |
| Fall 06 | **118** | **204** | 204 | 0 | 0 |
| Spring 07 | **56** | **71** | 47 | 24 | 0 |
| Summer 07 | **22** | **68** | 23 | 45 | 0 |
| Fall 07 | **61** | **105** | 34 | 62 | 9 |
| Spring 08 | **31** | **70** | 8 | 23 | 39 |
| Summer 08 | **18** | **64** | 9 | 7 | 48 |
| Fall 08 | **26** | **92** | 15 | 14 | 63 |
| Spring 09 | **29** | **86** | 11 | 8 | 67 |
| Summer 09 | **10** | **54** | 6 | 4 | 44 |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| NUMBER OF GRADUATES | | | |
|  | Current Policy | Two Appeals | Students Not Eligible to Attend |
| Spring 06 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Summer 06 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| Fall 06 | 8 | 0 | 0 |
| Spring 07 | 55 | 0 | 0 |
| Summer 07 | 32 | 0 | 0 |
| Fall 07 | 55 | 0 | 0 |
| Spring 08 | 84 | 0 | 0 |
| Summer 08 | 37 | 2 | 2 |
| Fall 08 | 65 | 2 | 0 |
| Spring 09 | 364 | 0 | 2 |
| Summer 09 | 174 | 2 | 3 |
| **Total** | **877** | **6** | **7** |

1. **Academic Intervention**

In the current policy, Academic Intervention applies to any students with fewer than 30 overall GPA hours and whose total institution cumulative GPA is 1.5 or below. This policy applies to transfer students as well, and the following conditions must be met:

1. Students must enroll in no more than 13 hours until the total institution cumulative GPA is above 1.5. The typical load would be academic courses for 9 – 10 hours, GSU 1120 for 2 hours (see #2 below), and a physical activity course (KINS prefix) for 1 hour.
2. Students must enroll in GSU 1120, “Methods of Learning”, unless the student has completed that course with a minimum grade of “C” prior to Spring 2002, or a grade of “S”. The GSU 1120 course is specifically designed to improve study skills and overall academic performance. Students who do not attend as required will receive a grade of “F”.

Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Office of the Registrar. In addition to these requirements, students are strongly urged to have regular meetings with their advisors for periodic updates on academic progress, for consultation, and for referral to appropriate support services as needed.

While on Academic Intervention, a student may pre-register for a subsequent term without being subjected to the Academic Intervention Policy.

In the proposed policy Academic Intervention applies to any students with fewer than 30 overall GPA hours and whose total institution cumulative GPA is 1.9 or below.

Implementation of the new policy will impact the number of students required to be in GSU 1120 (METHODS OF LEARNING). Based on data from Spring Term 2006, the impact will be as follows:

* 324 students enrolled under the current policy
* 633 students enrolled under the proposed policy

Note: The maximum number of students in a GSU 1120 (Methods of Learning) class is 30 students.