

SPECIAL REPORT

of the

ACADEMIC MATTERS COUNCIL

Concerning

**THE APPLICATION OF ACADEMIC STANDING REQUIREMENTS
TO STUDENTS RETURNING UNDER THE
“FRESH START” POLICY**

Presented at the
631st Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate
May 6, 2004

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

**William Richards Adrion
Mokhtar Atallah
Martha Baker
Robert Bernatsky
Stephanie Chapko
John J. Cunningham
Abhijit Deshmukh
Jeffrey Eiseman
Ginger Etinde
Debbie Felton Miller
Ruth Green
Dennis Hanno**

**John Jenkins (Chair)
Arthur Keene
M. Christine King
Anthony Leonardi
Linda Lowry
Pamela Marsh-Williams
Ernest May
Jennifer Normanly
Elizabeth Pyle
Theresa Ray
Dennis Searcy
Linda Slakey
Erica Striar**

**REPORT OF THE POLICIES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE AMC
CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF ACADEMIC STANDING REQUIREMENTS TO
STUDENTS RETURNING UNDER THE "FRESH START" POLICY**

I. BACKGROUND

Undergraduate students who return to the University after an absence of at least three years are eligible to have their cumulative grade point average revised, under provisions of the University's "Fresh Start" policy.

Most of the students who elect to have their records revised under the "Fresh Start" policy are students whose previous academic performance was, in some term or terms, poor and who, therefore, did not consistently meet the 2.000 cumulative average required to maintain Good Standing.

Their prior history of Probation, Suspension, or Dismissal makes it especially likely that, after their return under Fresh Start, these students, even if they are performing significantly better, will progress too rapidly into Suspension and Dismissal statuses. In other words, since the "Fresh Start" policy did not commit to restarting the Academic Standing progression, these students' prior Academic Standing history can too quickly and disproportionately affect their standing after return.

II. AMC Recommendations

The AMC reaffirms the importance of continuing the Fresh Start option for students returning to the University under the existing provisions of the Fresh Start policy. However, the AMC sees the need for the Fresh Start policy to detail how Academic Standing calculations will be made after the student's return for those who elect Fresh Start. AMC recommends that:

- 1) Those students who elect the Fresh Start option will receive a "Fresh Start" for Academic Standing upon their return, if their last term of enrollment at the University shows that they were in Good Standing or had, at worst, a calculated Academic Warning or Probation status. This will ensure that, after return, the student's first term below the required 2.000 cumulative average will be assigned Probation status.
- 2) Students whose last term had a calculated Suspension or Dismissal status will be subject to the usual Academic Standing progression after their return. These students are fully eligible for other provisions of Fresh Start but, after return, their first term below the required 2.000 cumulative average will be assigned whatever Academic Standing status is next in the usual progression.

Students returning to the University after an absence who do not elect Fresh Start or who are not eligible for Fresh Start would, of course, remain subject to the usual Academic Standing progression after their return.

MOVED: That the Faculty Senate approve the following new provision within the existing Fresh Start
44-04 policy for undergraduate students, returning to the University after an absence of at least three years, who are eligible for and elect the Fresh Start option: those who had left the University in Good Standing or on Probation will have Academic Standing calculations begin at the start of the progression upon their return. Students who, upon departure, had a suspension or dismissal in that final term will remain subject to the usual Academic Standing progression.
As presented in Sen. Doc. No. 04-039