

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 6.R

DATE: February 25, 2010

SUBJECT: Institutional Credits – Determination of Academic Status

Last fall, MOCC met in Chamberlain and discussed a discrepancy in “Institutional Credits” that has been noted in a student’s academic record available in the SIS. The attached screen shot is shown to provide the background for this item.

As you will note, there are two places where a student’s institutional credits are displayed. As MOCC discussed this, it was quickly agreed that the first time it appears as “Your Institutional Passed Hours”, the student’s institutional credits earned are displayed. The second item, “Institutional Credits”, is really a reflection of the student’s credit in residence. As background, these are defined Board Policy 2:29 as follows,

- 1) Credits in Residence: A Credit in Residence within the Board of Regents system is a course offered by any of the degree-granting Regental institutions at any approved site using any approved method of delivery.
- 2) Institutional Credits: An institutional credit is a credit offered by the degree granting institution and includes credits that are part of a formal collaborative agreement between that institution and another Regental institution.

RIS staff are reviewing strategies to change this form so that “Institutional Credits” in the program status section will be renamed, “Credits in Residence”.

However, as MOCC discussed this, the focus shifted to the centers and specifically the University Center since it has a history of formally coordinating the offering of core courses. During the MOCC discussion, staff from UC stated that all credits completed at this center were institutional credits because a cooperative agreement underpins all offerings. However, a poll of the registrars showed that this is not the case. Ms. Zalud circulated a query and has provided the following summary:

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Agree that core courses are offered through centers are part of formal collaborative agreements.

- BHSU – Not applicable
- DSU – Counts only DSU credits as institutional; exception = AS degree in Business Management (recognized collaborative agreement)
- NSU – Counts only NSU credits as institutional
- SDSMT – Not applicable
- SDSU – Counts only SDSU credits as institutional
- USD – If a UC student doesn't meet the 64- hour minimum, then his/her record is examined manually to determine whether any courses could be considered part of a collaborative agreement.

As a note, AAC has discussed this issue before without specifically taking up the issue of courses offered at any of the centers (see [AAC agenda item 6A\(2\), December 2007](#) and [AAC agenda item 6A\(2\), February 2009](#)).

AAC should be prepared to discuss how the system would like to define coursework at Centers. As a starting point, perhaps all core courses offered through a center ,to include UC, CUC, WRHEC, and EUC, should be considered as credits earned as part of a formal collaborative agreement. If this is the agreed to outcome, by policy these credits will be included as institutional credits both for meeting graduation requirements and for determination of honors. At the same time, there may be issues with specific majors offered at one of the centers or through EUC where requirements for a major may be offered by multiple institutions. An example would be NSU's offering of the BA in International Business at UC since students pursuing this option may complete a range of core business courses offered by USD.



