

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5.K

DATE: June 10, 2015

SUBJECT: “W” Grade Variations

During the [May 2015](#) AAC meeting the council discussed the addition of a number of “W” grade variations to be used in the Regental system stemming from the adoption by the Board of Regents of the new [“W grade” limits](#) beginning with the Fall 2015 semester. To assist in the implementation and tracking of the limitation of dropped courses, AAC supported a request that MOCC review potential options and to be used to better identify the types of withdraws that should/could exist in our Student Information System (SIS).

During this conversation at MOCC, the recommendation was made to create a totally new line-up of withdrawal grades (i.e., not carry the W grade over to the new era that now includes the imposed limit of six “W” grades) to better demarcate the before and after effective date. This approach resonated with MOCC representatives and the concept is being discussed further with the Registrar group the week prior to the AAC. If supported by the Registrars, AAC should be prepared to discuss support for this approach with a goal of making the necessary modifications to BOR [Policy 2:10 Grades and Use of Grade Point Averages](#) during the August Board of Regents meeting. Having this change in place prior to the start of the Fall term when the “W” grade limitation takes effect would be ideal assuming a Colleague customization would not be required. The change would result in the following additions.

- WD = used for the first 6 dropped courses
- WW = used for Withdrawals (dropping all courses for a given term)
- WFL = used for drops after the first 6.

Inclusion of WF Grade

Also in May, AAC discussed the request from USD to include the use of a “WF” grade as a feature of the new limits. The intent would be to have faculty assign this grade for those students that have never attended a course, or withdrew early in the semester, but still remain on the roster. The institution has found that when these instances occur, the registrar is tasked with determining whether the “F” was “earned” or as a result of non-attendance on the part of the student. Issues associated with time and effort has been advanced especially when the faculty

(Continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Discussion and Recommendation.

“W” Grade Variations

June 10, 2015

Page 2 of 2

member is no longer at the institution. The goal of the institution would be to treat the “WF” as an equivalent to an F in all respects, with the goal of further simplifying institutional missteps in the process when a “W” should have been processed. Currently, institutions that employ the “WF” grade use the following guidelines for distinguishing from other grade types. When discussed by MOCC it was noted that this format may not be useful to Financial Aid directors, and members raised concerns about resurrecting a pre-merge grade that was used differently across the system. Additionally, registrars voiced concerns about putting this type of grading in the hands of the faculty which could raise confusion resulting from inconsistent application across faculty and institutions in the Regental system. AAC representatives should be prepared to discuss their preference for using this type of grade noting that if added to Policy 2:10 the expectation would be that institutions would be asked to employ the grade under the definition developed.