

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5.A (2)

DATE: June 19, 2013

SUBJECT: Revision to Board Policy 2:10 Grades and Use of Grade Point Averages (GPA)

The system’s engagement with Complete College America has promoted engagement of faculty and staff in a range of activities that promote student success. This includes significant work in remediation, a process that Complete College America has defined as the “bridge to nowhere.” Coupled with this work, there is a commitment at the system-level to review and revise those guidelines and policies that serve as barriers to this reform and to promote policies that support student success. This proposed change to policy addresses one of the barriers identified.

Campuses in the system have moved to a self-paced, competency-based approach to remediation in math. To promote this process, the set of discrete courses offered were collapsed into a single course MATH 095, Pre-college Algebra. This course was developed to allow students to enroll for this single course for multiple semesters. This change was made to allow students enrolled to continue working to develop mastery to do college-level work rather than facing the artificial limits imposed when this is segmented. Math faculty established this as a course that could be repeated for credit. At the same time, the faculty require that students stay continuously enrolled and that they continue to be making progress until mastery is demonstrated/remedial work is completed. As this was discussed in the system, it was recognized that “making progress” is not a useful term for financial aid offices and for registrars since these entities are required to determine satisfactory academic progress.

To address these concerns, the following proposal was developed. MATH 095 has been approved as a course that students can enroll in for credit for three successive terms. At this point in time, there are two primary grade options that include RS if the course is completed and RU if the student is not successful. However, since it is recognized that it may require some students up to three semesters to complete, a new grade, SP (Satisfactory Progress) is proposed. This grade may be assigned at the end of the first and second semesters of enrollment in MATH 095. Receiving SP will count as a success and the student will have financial aid eligibility. At the end of the third semester the student will receive an RU or RS.

Operationally it was agreed that this grade has the attributes of an I but it captures the context that the course materials does include the materials from three distinct remedial courses. As a note, it needs to be understood that this approach was considered and rejected by the faculty and by AAC

(Continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the proposed change to Board Policy 2:10 and move forward to COPS.

Revisions to Board Policy 2:10
June 19, 2013
Page 2 of 2

simply because the grade I implies the student did not complete the course because of some extenuating circumstance(s) and a set of expectations are immediately applied. That is not the case here so an alternate grade, SP (Satisfactory Progress), is proposed. In fact, some faculty have been inappropriately assigning I's to students not completing and it was agreed that this process needed to be stopped.

To this end, the following revisions are recommended to section 1 of Policy 2:10

1. Undergraduate Grades

Undergraduate Grades will be assigned to the undergraduate academic level and to all courses and sections with course numbers ranging from 001 to 499. Plus and minus grades are not used.

A	Exceptional	4.00 grade points per semester hour
B	Above Average	3.00 grade points per semester hour
C	Average	2.00 grade points per semester hour
D	Lowest Passing Grade	1.00 grade points per semester hour
F	Failure	0.00 grade points per semester hour
S	Satisfactory	Does not calculate into any gpa
U	Unsatisfactory	Does not calculate into any gpa
RI	Incomplete (Remedial)	Does not calculate into any gpa
RS	Satisfactory (Remedial)	Does not calculate into any gpa
RU	Unsatisfactory (Remedial)	Does not calculate into any gpa
W	Withdrawal	Does not calculate into any gpa, no credit granted
AU	Audit	Does not calculate into any gpa
I	Incomplete	Does not calculate into any gpa
IP	In Progress	Does not calculate into any gpa
SP	Satisfactory Progress	Does not calculate into any gpa
EX	Credit by Exam	Does not calculate into any gpa
CR	Credit	Does not calculate into any gpa
TR	Note for NSE/MEDT	Does not calculate into any gpa, no credit granted
LR	Lab grade linked to Recitation Grade	0 credit course
NG	No Grade	0 credit tracking course
NR	Grade not Reported by Instructor	Does not calculate into any gpa
Grade*	Academic Amnesty	Does not calculate into any gpa, no credit given

An audit (AU) grade may be granted only when the student has elected the AU option on or prior to the census date of the term.

A credit (CR) grade may be granted only for non-course credit that is not related to an examination or to equating transfer grades to the BOR grading system. This grade is not used for any Regental university course.

An examination for credit (EX) grade may be granted only for non-course credit validation obtained through a validation process. This grade is not used for any Regental university course.

An incomplete (I) grade may be granted only when all of the following conditions apply:

- 1) A student has encountered extenuating circumstances that do not permit him/her to complete the course.

- 2) The student must be earning a passing grade at the time the Incomplete is necessitated. Anticipated course failure is not a justification for an incomplete.
- 3) The student does not have to repeat the course to meet the requirements.
- 4) The instructor must agree to grant an incomplete grade.
- 5) The instructor and student must agree on a plan to complete the coursework.
- 6) The coursework must be completed within one semester; extensions may be granted by the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- 7) If the student completes the course within the specified time, the grades that may be assigned are A, B, C, D, F, S, RS, RU, or U.
- 8) If the student does not complete the course within the specified time, the grade assigned will be F (Failure) or U (Unsatisfactory) or RU (Remedial Unsatisfactory) if the student had requested S/U within the time specified in BOR policy 2:6.9.

An in progress (IP) grade may be granted only when all of the following conditions apply:

- 1) The requirements for the course (for every student enrolled in the course) extend beyond the current term.
- 2) The extension beyond the current term must be defined before the class begins.
- 3) The instructor must request permission to award IP grades for a course from their Department Head and Dean, and then approval must be obtained from the Vice President for Academic Affairs.
- 4) A definite date for completion of the course must be established in the course syllabus.

A grade of NG will be used only with those course sections that are designated as Tracking/Program Sustaining (Q) and those that are assigned the code for Master's Research Problems/Projects Sustaining, Thesis Sustaining, or Dissertation Sustaining (U).

Remedial grades (RI, RS, RU) may be granted only for courses numbered 001 to 099.

A Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory (S/U) grade may be granted only when the entire course requires the S/U grade or the student has elected the S/U option on or prior to the census date of the term.

[A satisfactory progress \(SP\) grade may be granted only for students enrolled in MATH 095. If the grade of SP is awarded, the following conditions apply:](#)

- [a\) The grade is an alternative to RS and RU.](#)
- [b\) The student must have made satisfactory progress during the course but the student did not develop mastery of all required content. If the student successfully mastered the materials, the grade of RS should be assigned. If progress was not made, the grade of RU should be assigned.](#)

- c) The student must stay continuously enrolled in MATH 095 during subsequent terms. If the student is enrolled in the system in a subsequent terms but is not registered for MATH 095 (or any other remedial math course offered in the system), the grade reverts to a RU.
- d) When a grade of RU or RS is assigned in a subsequent enrollment, each preceding SP grade will be changed to the grade awarded.
- e) If the student transfers to another institution within the system and the student completes MATH 095, MATH 101 or any other higher level math course, the SP grade reverts to an RS.
- f) If the student is not registered for subsequent terms, the grade reverts to a RU.