

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM: 5.A (3)

DATE: June 19, 2013

SUBJECT: Revision to Board Policy 2:29

Board Policy 2:29, Definition of Credits and Related Institutional Requirements, establishes the requirements that students must fulfill to be awarded a degree. Following common academic traditions, in the Regental System students are awarded a degree upon the completion of a program which includes a proscribed set of degree, major and outside/elective/total credits. To be awarded a degree in a specific major, a student must meet these requirements at the degree granting institution.

The system’s campuses have established a small set of dual degree agreements under which students can be awarded a degree by both partner institutions. In these arrangements, students complete all of the requirements for a program (degree, major and total credits) at each institution. While these arrangements are common, they often times require six or more years of study. A recent example is the set of agreements the South Dakota State has entered into with regional chiropractic colleges.

Northern State University and South Dakota State University have entered into a cooperative agreement to explore unique strategies to allow students enrolled at either institution to complete a major in a related field offered by the other. The Board was made aware of this during the December 2012 meeting. While these were originally envisioned as dual degree agreements, as discussions evolved, staff at the institutions agreed that students would be best served if they were permitted to complete the programmatic (degree plus major) requirements at one of the partner institutions and solely the requirements for a major at the other institution.

Board Policy 2:29 controls this. In fact, section 1.C.5) permits students completing programmatic requirements at any institution to complete the requirements for any minor offered by any of the universities and to have this transcribed. However, this does not extend to majors and, in fact, the Board has reserved the right to approve new programs (majors) at any given institution.

Therefore, if the cooperative agreement between NSU and SDSU is to be enacted, Board Policy needs to be revised. As outlined in the included materials, the changes recommended require

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve the proposed change to Board Policy 2:29 and move forward to COPS.

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Board approval before any such agreements can be initiated. To make the intent of this clear, under these agreements participating students must meet all established programmatic requirements at the degree granting institution and all of the major requirements at the partner institution. Therefore, the approval is not approval of a new curriculum. Rather, Board approval is required to allow the degree granting institution the authority to transcript a major not authorized on that campus but on the partner question.

Members of the Council should be prepared to discuss this proposed revision and to raise issues or concerns.

C. Institutional Credit Requirements for Degree-Seeking Students

1) Each baccalaureate level degree program offered shall require one hundred twenty (120) credit hours and each associate level degree program offered shall require sixty (60) credit hours. Exceptions may be granted for those cases in which a program must comply with specific standards established by external accreditation, licensure or regulatory bodies or for other compelling reasons approved by the executive director in consultation with the Board of Regents' president. All new programs proposed after January 1, 2012 will comply with this requirement and all existing programs will be modified to conform to this requirement by June 30, 2012.

2) Minimum number of credit hours that must be earned from the institution granting the degree:

Baccalaureate	30 hours
Associate	15 hours

3) Number of the last credit hours earned preceding completion of the degree that must be earned from the institution granting the degree:

Baccalaureate	15 of the last 30 hours
Associate	8 of the last 15 hours

The campus chief academic officer may make exceptions to this requirement in those cases where there are unique factors, such as participation in an approved study abroad program or in other similar authorized experiences.

4) Minimum number of credit hours specified in the major or minor requirements that must be completed at the degree granting institution: 50 percent. However, this requirement may be waived for students enrolled in the set of majors offered at the system's Centers which include in the established programs of study common courses offered by one of the other Regental universities. In addition, the Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost may make exceptions to this requirement for individuals based on the student's prior learning experiences.

5) With prior approval by the Board of an authorizing inter-institutional agreement, degree seeking students at one institution may complete requirements for and may have transcribed a major offered at the partner Regental institution. This major will be recorded on the student's transcript in conjunction with a degree/major at the student's home university. These majors from a second institution will only be recorded on the transcript in conjunction with a degree and major at the student's home institution.

6) Degree seeking students may complete requirements for a minor at any Regental university that has been approved to grant that minor. This minor will be

recorded on the transcript in conjunction with a degree/major at that university or a degree/major at any other Regental university. A minor will only be recorded on the transcript in conjunction with a degree and major.

| 67) Student course load status is based on the number of credit hours for which a student is enrolled.

½ Time Status	6 credit hours minimum
¾ Time Status	9 credit hours minimum
Full Time Status	12 or more credit hours
Overload Status	19 or more credit hours.

To be eligible for overload status, a student must have a 2.70 cumulative grade point average and approval by the Dean of the student's division/college at the home institution.