

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Academic and Student Affairs

AGENDA ITEM: 6 – A

DATE: May 10, 2022

SUBJECT

Math Placement Guidelines

CONTROLLING STATUTE, RULE, OR POLICY

[BOR Policy 2:3](#) – System Undergraduate Admissions

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

Historically, initial math placement of incoming undergraduate students was driven by standardized test scores (most prominently, ACT math subscore). In 2013, SDSU proposed a new approach: Math Index, which integrates two data elements (HS GPA + standardized math test score) into a single measure of math readiness. Following development of a meaningful formula for calculation, SDSU launched its usage through an approved pilot project. In 2016, Math Index was embraced across the system as the key influential factor for initial placement. That format has been perpetuated through the current academic year.

The COVID-19 Pandemic prompted SDSU to research efficacy of using HS GPA (High School Grade Point Average) in isolation as an indicator of collegiate math readiness. Based on extensive investigation and evaluation, Dr. Donna Flint (SDSU) crafted a new math placement matrix in which HS GPA is preferentially utilized. That foundational premise along with the proposed math placement matrix was vetted by the Math Discipline Council (a membership comprised of twelve experienced mathematics professors); ultimately, a vote of the six universities resulted in approval.

A chosen representative of the Math Discipline Council – Dr. Kurt Cogswell of SDSU – presented this proposal to the Academic Affairs Council (AAC). Following discussion and deliberation, AAC approved this new approach to initial math placement.

IMPACT AND RECOMMENDATION

Given the pertinent relationship of math placement to undergraduate admissions (BOR Policy 2:3), this guideline merits approval from the Board of Regents. Consistent with the AAC membership’s resolve, BOR senior staff members are supportive of the Math Discipline Council’s recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment I – AAC Math Placement Guideline 7.6.1

Attachment II – Appendix A – Math Placement Matrix

DRAFT MOTION 20220510_6-A:

I move to approve the Math Placement Guidelines, as presented.