



CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE

Report to Academic Council
at its meeting of February 23rd, 2016

FOR ACTION

1. Office of the Registrar

a. New Academic Standing Category – Program Dismissal

The Curriculum and Program Review Committee recommends:

That Academic Council approve the new academic standing category: Program Dismissal.

Rationale

The creation of “Program Dismissal” as an academic standing category permits the university to remove a student from a program without removing them from the university. For example, if a student is found professionally unsuitable or unable to pass clinical/practicum placements, the only academic standing category available now would be “Suspended”. Having “Program Dismissal” as an academic standing category will enable such students to apply for transfer to another program where the clinical courses are not required. Similarly, if a student does not pass a course required for a program in the maximum number of attempts, they will have an opportunity of applying to another program where the course is not required.

b. Academic Standing Clarification - Dismissal

The Curriculum and Program Review Committee recommends:

That Academic Council approve the clarification to the definition of Dismissal.

Rationale

The original intent of “Dismissal” was that students who were not successful in their academic program following a period of suspension would be asked to leave the university permanently. After a few years, a “revocation of dismissal” clause was added into the admissions section of the calendar. This has caused confusion, as a number of students are asking for reinstatement after sitting out another eight months. By adding the word “permanent” into the definition of “Dismissal” and removing text which describes the possibility of reinstatement, we feel that fewer students will attempt this route. Should a Dean have an outstanding case for reinstatement then they would still have the ability to reinstate a dismissed student.

c. Revision to the Program Change process and corresponding Calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average

The Curriculum and Program Review Committee recommends:

That Academic Council approve the revision to the Program change regulation such that courses with D or lower will not be included in the GPA calculation for the new program.

Rationale

In the Retention Report (2014), the committee recommended a review of a number of policies and procedures which they felt were acting as barriers to student success. Using all course attempts in the calculation of a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) negatively affects a student who is transferring from a program where they may have a number of poor grades. We have students who continue to get above 2.0 in semester GPAs who are not able to achieve a 2.0 CGPA because first year failures are still part of the calculation. By treating these program changes similar to transfers from other institutions,

such that only those courses that are at least a “C” grade are included, we will be more equitable and solve the issue noted above. As per current practice, all attempts will remain on the official transcript.

FOR INFORMATION

1. Office of the Registrar

a. Minor Amendments to the Undergraduate Academic Calendar

Minor amendments to the academic calendar that are essentially editorial in nature or do not change the purpose and scope of substantive content of the Policy Instrument have been made, and a summary provided (see attached for Item 1, above). Should you wish to discuss these changes, please contact Brad MacIsaac, AVP Planning and Analysis, and Registrar.

b. Academic Suspension Process – Addition of a Remediation Option

There are no formalized remedial mechanisms in place for students to address difficulties before returning to their program after the current two semester suspension period. UOIT and Durham College have developed a retention pathway for students who are unsuccessful after their first year of attendance to improve their fundamental skills. If a student elects to enroll in the remedial program, they would be required to enter a remedial stream with designated courses built for academic success. Successful completion will enable students to re-enroll at UOIT in the subsequent fall term. Students who are not successful in the remedial program would continue to serve their full suspension from the university.

2. University Secretary and General Counsel – Records Disposition Procedure and Records Classification and Retention Schedule

The Curriculum and Program Review Committee provides support for approval of the Records Disposition Procedure and the Records Classification and Retention Schedule by the Board of Governors and recommends that Academic Council similarly provide its support.

3. Faculty of Science

a. Bachelor of Science, Chemistry – Minor Program Adjustment

The program adjustment included removing some non-chemistry courses to increase science elective offerings and the movement of some core chemistry courses to better distribute and balance the student workload. To ensure that the proposed chemistry program changes maintain a rigorous and high-quality standard, the Faculty of Science followed the Canadian Society of Chemistry (CSC) accreditation guidelines.