Approved

Present: Lesley Rigg (LAS/GEOG); M.J. Blaschak (HHS/SAHP); B. Goldenberg (UCC); E. Mogren (LAS/HIST); J. Parker (EDUC/KNPE); C. Rollman (VPA/ART); D. Cesarotti (EET/TECH); R. Holly (HHS/Council of Adv. Deans); D. Wade (BUS/MGMT)

Ex Officio: B. Burk (ADMISSIONS); S. Eaton (EDUC SERV & PROG); M. Gillis (TRANSFER CENTER); S. Kallembach (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); B. Gage (ASSISTANT VICE PROVOST); E. Seaver (VICE PROVOST)

Students: R. Garcia (BUS/ACCY); A. Peterson (EL ED); M. Smith (ENGR)

Visitors: L. Gambino (REGISTRATION AND RECORDS); D. Smith (CATALOG EDITOR/CURRICULUM COORDINATOR); J. Wolfskill (LAS/MATH)

Absent: M. Zidek (KNPE)

OPENING: The meeting was called to order by D. Wade, Chair.

I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

   It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by E. Mogren, to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

   A. Electronic Approval of Minutes (11/1/06). The minutes for meeting #136 were approved electronically via email.

   B. New Student Information System Update

       No update to report.

III. OLD BUSINESS

   A. Repeat Policy

       G. Seaver discussed again the current catalog language which states the grade of the last attempt is the grade that counts. G. Seaver explained if a
student receives a “D” and retakes the course and receives an “F” the student will receive no credit for the “D”. However, a department may decide to waive that requirement for the student based on the grade of “D”.

G. Seaver said that what is in the catalog can be programmed but it has to be understood that students will not get credit for the “D” they received the first time. If it is a course that a student needs for graduation, the college and department still have the option to waive the requirements. They can not disconnect the credit from the grade.

E. Mogren reiterated that a department can waive the requirement for a course that is a pre-requisite. However, if it is a requirement for a program the college dean would need to approve. If it is a requirement for graduation, the dean could petition the Provost’s office.

G. Seaver stated that if it is a requirement for graduation within their major that would be a dean and department decision. However, if it is the total number of credit hours, that requirement would have to go through the Provost’s office because that is an university requirement.

E. Mogren made a motion that APASC recommend that the university adopt a policy of accepting the highest grade option as the recommendation. Seconded by Lesley Rigg.

J. Wolfskill, Assistant Chair in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, said that he felt that all course attempts should be visible on the student’s transcript. He was of the opinion that the higher grade sets up a situation of gross injustice because in a course one would potentially have several students coming in with “D”s and they would be protected from an “F” outcome. These students’ GPA would not be hurt even if they earned an “F.” That is not true of the majority of the students in the course. All the other students coming into the course that earn an “F” are stuck with that “F” on their GPA. The others have a free ride. He stated that he felt it was not just fundamentally unfair, but grossly and grievously so.

J. Wolfskill presented that approximately 12 percent of the grades in Math were “D”s over the last academic year. Nearly 9,000 grades were assigned and 1,060 were “D”s. He stated that we were not worried about repeats when a student starts with an “F”. It is only potentially an awkward situation when a student starts with a “D” and then earns an “F”.

J. Wolfskill said that he advocated the current rule where the latter grade is the one that counts in the GPA. He agreed with E. Seaver that a student could petition a department to waive the requirement in cases where the
student has received a “D” and then earned an “F”. He said that it should be looked at on a case-by-case basis.

R. Holly expressed that he would rather have a policy that worked for everybody rather than establish a situation where exceptions become the norm. He stated that his position and two-thirds of the advising deans is that it is not “risk free” mainly because of the credit issue. The policy says last grade. However, currently students maintain credit for the first attempt. Since we are no longer able to do that it is not a “risk free” second enrollment if we go with the last grade. If a student would earn an “F” on the second attempt, they would be losing credit that they both earned and paid for.

R. Holly indicated that faculty and advisors feel the issue is not last grade vs. highest grade, but that it is the loss of earned and paid for credit.

S. Eaton presented the results of a couple of analyses looking at two Chance cohorts and their first attempt in the top ten general education courses. In the 2002 cohort there were 664 first attempt enrollments in these courses, 98 received “D”s and 29 of the 98 repeated the course within the next six semesters. One received an “F” on the second attempt and that student was academically dismissed that semester.

In the 2004 cohort, there were 815 first attempt enrollments resulting in 177 “D”s. Sixty-six repeated over the next four semesters and five received “F”s. Of the five two of these students were academically dismissed and two continued in good standing.

E. Mogren said that there were three general areas of discussion.

- **Resources will be impacted**
  There is little doubt that a “no academic risk” policy in effect is offering an incentive for students to repeat which will increase enrollment in courses.

  Logic dictates that reducing academic risks to zero will encourage students who want to inflate their GPAs to repeat.

  All of the Liberal Arts and Sciences advisors are unanimous in their opinion that enrollments will increase if we reduce the academic risk to zero.

  Four departments are already hard pressed to offer sufficient sections of core curriculum. Such increased enrollments may force cuts.
Student Friendly Policy
Is the highest grade option student friendly? It is student friendly for whom?

It is clearly friendly for students who do poorly in courses to be offered a “no risk” incentive to inflate their GPA.

It is not student friendly to offer students incentives to repeat courses which could ultimately put their financial aid at risk because they do not meet satisfactory academic progress requirements.

Exceeding the time limit of the student’s truth and tuition will come into effect when a student has to take an additional semester or more because of repeats.

Large numbers of repeaters in courses is hardly student friendly to students who wish to enroll in those courses for the first time and are prevented from doing so.

Academic integrity for the university
Adopting the highest grade option is not the policy of virtually all of the Illinois universities or the big ten schools that were surveyed. Should we emulate the other institutions as reflected on the survey?

The public should be able to trust at face value the GPA that our students report on job applications, etc.

It is the goal of the university to improve itself always.

E. Mogren expressed that he felt after all of the discussions on the repeat policy that there has never been a fully articulated reason why we should adopt a highest grade option. There has been very little policy rationale offered for it and certainly not enough to abandon a decade long policy that has served us well. He stated that a repeat policy should be a humane and an extraordinary alternative for students who fall short because of extraordinary circumstances.

D. Wade said that the motion on the table was to accept the highest grade not the current catalog language, but the proposed catalog language stating “The highest grade which the student earns in the two attempts will be used in the GPA calculation”.

The motion was defeated seven to four.
It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by R. Holly, to approve the language regarding the third or subsequent enrollments which states “In approved third or subsequent enrollments the grade earned during the last enrollment will be used in the GPA calculation.”

Motion carried.

The first sentence in the fifth paragraph for repeating a course will read as follows:

All grades received in the course will appear on the transcript, and all grades, except the initial one, will be used in the GPA calculation. Credit may be earned only once unless the course description in the catalog states otherwise. Exceptions to this policy may be granted only by the dean of the student’s major college. In all cases, third or subsequent enrollments in a course may be allowed only if the department in which the course is taught agrees to permit enrollment. In approved third or subsequent enrollments the grade earned during the last enrollment will be used in the GPA calculation.

It was then moved by D. Wade, seconded by R. Holly, to approve the deletion of the end of the first sentence. Motion passed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Curricular Catalog Changes

The following colleges submitted catalog changes:

College of Business #3, October 17, 2006
College of Health and Human Sciences #6, October 13, 2006
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences #6, October 25, 2006

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by D. Cesarotti, to approve the packet of catalog changes. Motion passed.

B. Satisfactory Academic Progress Catalog Wording

Rich Holly brought forward a change to the Financial Aid procedures on determining Satisfactory Academic Progress. The proposed change will result in having Satisfactory Academic Progress computed once per academic year, instead at the end of each term. This change is in line with the mandated federal regulations regarding the determination of Satisfactory Academic progress, and would provide students a greater
opportunity to work with their advisor to return to good standing under this policy.

Page 55-56, 2006-07 Undergraduate Catalog

**Satisfactory Academic Progress for Undergraduates/Postgraduates**

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**Rate of Completion Requirement**

A student must successfully complete at least 67 per cent of the credit hours attempted after two terms of enrollment and subsequently each academic year. Earned A, B, C, D, P, and S grades are considered ... in the total number of semester hours attempted.

**Grade Point Average Requirement**

A student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher after two terms of enrollment and subsequently each academic year. Failure to maintain the required GPA ... see “Academic Probation and Dismissal.”

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**Evaluation**

The satisfactory academic progress policy is in effect for each academic year of a student’s enrollment. Satisfactory academic progress is evaluated after the completion of each term of enrollment spring semester. Students who have an unsuccessful term(s) will receive written notification of their current status. Evaluations are based on courses completed at NIU. NIU and transfer credits are used in the calculation of “Maximum Time Frame Requirement” and in the “Declaration of Major Requirement.”

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Students not making satisfactory academic progress after two terms of enrollment at the end of the spring semester will be placed on financial aid warning and sent a letter notifying them of their financial aid warning status. Students on financial aid warning may continue to receive financial aid for the next term of enrollment.

If the deficiency is not remedied by the end of this term, the next spring semester, the student becomes ineligible for financial aid. The student's awards are placed on hold, and he or she will receive a second written notification of lack of progress. Students at this stage must consult with the dean of their major college or the dean's designee. Students who have no college affiliation must consult with the Vice Provost (or the Vice Provost's designee). Financial aid will not be released unless the Student Financial Aid Office is notified in writing by the dean of the student's major college or the dean's designee or the Vice Provost (or the Vice Provost's designee) that consultation has occurred.

If the deficiency is not remedied by the end of the next term of enrollment, the student again becomes ineligible for financial aid and will be notified. Students may formally appeal their ineligibility for financial aid. If the appeal is approved, the student will then be awarded financial aid for another term of enrollment. If an appeal is required, the student's SAP status will be monitored every term of enrollment.
Graduate Student Standards of Satisfactory Academic Progress for Financial-Aid Purposes

Rate of Completion Requirement

A student must successfully complete 67 percent of the credit hours attempted after two terms of enrollment and subsequently each academic year after spring semester grades are posted. Courses in which grades of A, B, C, or S… to meet degree requirements.

Grade Point Average Requirement

A student must maintain a cumulative graduate GPA of 3.00 or higher after two terms of enrollment and subsequently each academic year.

Evaluation

The satisfactory academic progress policy is in effect for each academic year of a student’s enrollment. Satisfactory academic progress is evaluated after the completion of each term of enrollment in the spring semester. Students who have an unsuccessful term or terms will receive written notification of their current status.

Failure to Meet the “Rate of Completion Requirement” or “Grade Point Average Requirement”

Students not making satisfactory academic progress after two terms of enrollment will be placed on financial aid warning and sent a letter notifying them of their financial aid warning status. Students on financial aid warning may continue to receive financial aid for the next term of enrollment.

If the deficiency is not remedied by the end of this term in the next spring semester, the student becomes ineligible for financial aid. The student's awards are placed on hold, and he or she will receive a second written notification of lack of progress. Students at this stage should consult with their graduate academic adviser. Financial aid will not be released unless the Student Financial Aid Office is notified in writing by the Graduate School that consultation has occurred.

If the deficiency is not remedied by the end of the next term of enrollment, a student again becomes ineligible for financial aid and will be so notified. Students may formally appeal their ineligibility for financial aid. If the appeal is approved, the student will regain eligibility for financial aid and will then be awarded financial aid for another term of enrollment. If an appeal is required, the student's SAP status will be monitored every term of enrollment.

It was moved by R. Holly, seconded by D. Wade, to accept the catalog changes for both graduate and undergraduate Satisfactory Academic Progress. Motion passed.
C. Elimination of Nondegree Student Admission Category

B. Gage stated that because students can be accommodated through the Visiting Student category, there was no need for the current catalog language addressing Nondegree Students. However, there is a concern for those students who wish to attend consecutive semesters as a Visiting Student.

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by E. Mogren, to delete the catalog language for Nondegree Students and to edit the language for Visiting Students. Motion passed.

V. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by D. Wade, seconded by R. Holly, to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Gambino.