

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

## **REVISION OF B.O.G STATUTE 2.34.07.220**

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board of Governors revise Statute section 2.34.07.220 to amend the definition of the WN withdrawal mark.

### **Policy Description**

#### Proposed revision to section 2.34.07.220

WN: Withdrawal given to student when there is no basis for a letter grade. The “WN” grade replaces the “X” grade.

#### Current Statute Section Language 2.34.07.220

WN: Withdrawal given to students who did not attend any classes and/or did not complete any assignments and/or did not participate in credit-earning activities by the withdrawal date. The “WN” grade replaces the “X” grade.

### **Background**

Wayne State implemented a process by which faculty verified student participation, defined as attendance or some other meaningful activity, in each of their classes for the Fall 2016 semester. The system was implemented to keep the university in compliance with federal aid regulations.

In Fall 2005, the Provost’s Office recommended a new withdrawal policy the Board of Governors. As a result of the new policy, Wayne State implemented a system where faculty were required to report one of three notations when approving a course withdrawal. These notations, and their definition in BOG CA §2.34.07.210 and 220 are:

- WP: Withdrawal with a passing grade earned to date.
- WF: Withdrawal with a failing grade earned to date.
- WN: Withdrawal given to students who did not attend any classes and/or did not complete any assignments and/or did not participate in credit-earning activities by the withdrawal date.

The process for verification of academic participation currently confirms student’s participation in class, and as a practical matter, the WN definition creates a conflicting data definition. That is, a student can be verified as participating at the beginning of class, and still earn a WN grade with the possible interpretation that they never attended. The update also removes the conflict between the verification of academic participation process and the withdrawal process. Modifying the definition of the WN mark to only speak to the inability to determine an appropriate letter grade would bring the policy in line with the implications of the new academic participation verification process.

### **Approvals**

This revision has been approved by the Office of the Registrar and the Office of the Provost.