

Revision of Board of Governors' Statute 2.34.11 on Probation; Undergraduate Academic

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors revise Statute 2.34.11 on Probation; Undergraduate Academic effective fall semester 2023. This statute describes the requirements for undergraduate probation and, specifically, recommends that language be included to allow the opportunity for students to be offered and opt to participate in an academic recovery plan rather than be academically excluded if their cumulative grade point average does not improve above a 2.0 by the end of the standard probationary period.

Rationale for Proposed Changes

As a practical matter, the current statute forces the University to exclude students who may still have a feasible path to successfully complete their degree. The proposed changes will empower academic units to develop policies and procedures for academic recovery plans, and to exercise professional judgment in their application. This will result in some students recovering from academic distress and getting on a path to success while remaining enrolled, where they would otherwise be excluded under existing statute.

One example of a situation that arises where an academic recovery plan would support student success is when a student does poorly in courses related to their declared major, but then opts to change majors to something that is a better fit for them academically. While students can retake a course to replace the grade that is calculated for G.P.A. purposes, a student would not necessarily want to retake courses they no longer need for their new major. This may require additional semesters to offset lower grades and increase cumulative G.P.A. above a 2.0. Rather than penalizing a student who took some time and struggled to find their academic home, academic recovery plans allow our faculty and staff to work with students on a path towards success.

Additionally, the current statute utilizes outdated language such as honor point average and grade reports. These proposed revisions reflect current terminology and aligns this statute's language with other statutes and policies.

Current Statute Language

According to the current Board of Governors statute 2.34.11 regarding Undergraduate Probation, a student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 is placed on academic probation and may only register for classes after meeting with an academic advisor. A notation of probation status is placed on a student's record and remains there until a student improves their G.P.A. to above a 2.0. Students are given two subsequent terms of enrollment after being placed on probation to improve their cumulative G.P.A. to a 2.0. Students who remain below a 2.0 G.P.A. after two subsequent terms of probation are excluded from registration.

Proposed Statute Revision

The recommended revised text of the statute is presented in its entirety below.

Approvals

This recommendation was approved by the Academic Senate and the Provost.

2.34.11 Probation; Undergraduate Academic

2.34.11.010

Undergraduate students whose cumulative ~~honor~~ grade point average falls below 2.00 will be placed on "Academic Probation." Subject to the approval of the President or his/her designee, individual Colleges and Schools may establish higher minimum ~~honor~~ grade point averages for academic probation in their programs.

2.34.11.020

An "Academic Probation" hold shall be placed on the student's record when the cumulative ~~honor~~ grade point average (H G.P.A.) falls below 2.00. The student shall be permitted to register only after consultation with and approval by a designated university advisor.

2.34.11.025

An "academic recovery plan" refers to a written agreement between a student and designated university advisor that identifies factors contributing to subpar academic performance and specifies requirements for a student to be permitted additional terms of academic eligibility rather than being academically excluded. Academic recovery plans must include specific efforts and activities the student will engage in to return to good academic standing. Terms of an academic recovery plan are determined at the discretion of the Schools and Colleges. Failure to comply with the terms of the academic recovery plan may result in early termination of the academic recovery plan and academic exclusion.

2.34.11.030

The statement "Academic Probation" shall be printed on the ~~grade report and the student record~~ unofficial transcript for the first term in which the cumulative average falls below 2.00. Thereafter, the statement "~~Probation Continued~~ Academic Probation" shall appear on the ~~record and grade report~~ unofficial transcript until the student attains "Regular Status" or is subject to "Academic Exclusion". "Regular Status" is restored when the student achieves a cumulative H G.P.A. of 2.00 ~~for one semester~~. In any subsequent term where ~~both~~ the cumulative H G.P.A. average ~~and the term H.P.A. are~~ is below 2.00, probation will be reinstated.

2.34.11.040

Students shall be given two subsequent terms of enrollment after going on probation to achieve a cumulative 2.00 H G.P.A. At the conclusion of the two subsequent terms, students who have not achieved a cumulative H G.P.A. of at least 2.00 shall be excluded from their program and may not apply for readmission or reinstatement for one calendar year. Registration unless they have entered into an academic recovery plan with a designated university advisor.

2.34.11.045

A student on academic probation may remain academically eligible after two subsequent terms of enrollment if they have consulted with a designated university advisor and entered into an academic recovery plan. Academic recovery plans may not extend beyond an additional two terms of enrollment without approval from the academic Dean or his/her designee.

2.34.11.050

The President or his/her designee may promulgate guidelines for review of Academic Probation Status, development and issuance of academic recovery plans, appeals regarding exclusion, program requirements for students on probation status, readmission decisions and record-keeping.