

Educational Policies and Procedures Committee
Minutes
24 January 2011

Present: Mary Anne Gaffney (Chair), Suman Batish, Bruce Conrad (secretary), Jimmy Curran, Chris Dennis, Eli Goldblatt, Peter Jones, Michele O'Connor, Nilgün A. Okur, Keya Sadehipour, Catherine Schifter, Teresa Soufas.

1. The minutes of 22 November approved with a correction.
2. The meeting was a presentation by Peter Jones and Chris Dennis of academic policies that have been considered and endorsed by this committee, and are now in an advanced draft form. The first to be presented was the policy on academic standing. The current policy for students who are not making satisfactory academic progress. There are stages, Academic Warning, Academic Probation, Dismissal—and Conditional Status, followed by a five-year waiting period before a student who has been dismissed will be allowed to reapply. The number of students who emerge from Conditional Status to good academic standing (less than ¼) is too small to justify a mechanism that prolongs failure for too many. Therefore the Conditional Status will be eliminated. The waiting period for returning after dismissal will be reduced to four years. Advising services will be asked to actively intervene to help struggling students who fall into Academic Warning and Probation. Deficiency points will no longer be used, to be replaced by a table with minimal GPAs as a function of credit hours completed.
3. The elimination of Conditional Status will be effective at the end of spring 2011. In the fall 2011 semester, students who would have been on conditional status after the May 2011 will be given the opportunity to matriculate, on Academic Probation. If a student in this situation does not achieve a GPA that prevents his or her dismissal, then he or she will be dismissed and may not return for four years. A student may apply to defer matriculation to a later semester. There will be no opportunity to extend for more than one semester.
4. The repeat policy will allow a student to repeat a course that he or she has taken and received a grade (W counts as a grade) one time. A student who wants to repeat the same course a second time will need permission from a dean's designee, and under no circumstances will a student be allowed a third repeat. This policy is to be announced now, but it will not be in effect until the 2012 spring semester. The policy has several corollaries:
 - (a) Students who exhaust their opportunities to pass English 802 or Mosaic I or II will be dismissed, regardless of their GPAs, and whether or not they have had a semester on probation.
 - (b) A student who has failed three times a required course for his or her major will have to change to another major in which that course is not required.
 - (c) A student who has failed a necessary course three or more times at the present time will need to pass the course before 2012.
 - (d) Current policy limits the number of course withdrawals while a student is enrolled at Temple to five. This policy is no longer needed, and will be rescinded as of the 2012 spring semester.
 - (e) The current policy on GPA calculation requires that when a course is taken multiple times, only one of the grades received will be deleted in the GPA calculation. Starting with the spring 2012 semester, only the highest grade will be counted. A corollary to this corollary is that some students—those who have repeated a course many times before the policy went into effect—will see their GPAs improve.
5. Eli Goldblatt asked about ESL students: more resources will be needed to prevent the repeat policy from putting them at a severe disadvantage. Peter Jones agreed, and said that this at risk population will require special intervention.
6. Leave of Absence: the new policy allows students to request a leave of absence for a semester or a year. Upon returning, they retain their original bulletin year for their curricula.

7. Peter Jones enunciated a goal of a 50% four-year graduation rate, which he believes is achievable. A key step toward the goal is to give academic advisers a professional career path that will enable the university to attract and retain high quality, committed staff for our 15 advising centers. Nilgün Okur added that advisers need to have more contact with faculty, as they may occasionally recommend course loads that may seem reasonable, but in fact are not. It was suggested that each department might designate a faculty member to be the person for an adviser to ask when a question arises, with the assumption that the designated faculty member would be free to pass questions to his or her colleagues.
8. Faculty often complain that students do not have their textbooks when classes begin. A question was raised: is there a way that students can get information about textbooks earlier? There were several suggestions, but no resolution.
9. Adjournment: the meeting adjourned at 4:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Conrad