

April 23, 2015

JAMES MCCLAIN

Associate Dean – Undergraduate Education
College of Letters and Science

RE: Council of Associate Deans Recommended Changes to the Minimum Progress Requirement (Davis Divisional Regulation (DDR) A552)

The Council of Associate Deans (CAD) request to revisit the Minimum Progress Requirement was forwarded to all standing committees of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate, including school and college Faculty Executive Committees. Detailed responses were received from the Committee on Admissions and Enrollment (CAE), and Undergraduate Council (UGC).

In recognition of a decade since the last review of this regulation, there is interest in evaluating and discussing improvement of the current minimum progress requirement described in DDR A552.

CAD's proposal did raise a number of questions both in terms of 1) obtaining an improved understanding of any institutional impediments resulting in a student not making minimum progress, and 2) the specific suggested policy changes. See enclosed list of questions.

The Davis Division of the Academic Senate needs more information before initiating a review of the process outlined in DDR A552. In order to aid the process, I request a study by CAD to identify institutional impediments leading to a student being placed on probation, addressing the specific questions that were raised, and perhaps dismissal/probation issues to generally inform a review.

If CAD's study is received by October 1, 2015, the Academic Senate is willing to review and update as needed the minimum progress regulations for review and approval by the Representative Assembly. Please send any response to academicsenatechair@ucdavis.edu.

Sincerely,



André Knoesen, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor: Electrical and Computer Engineering

Enclosure

CATEGORY1: QUESTIONS RELATED TO SPECIFIC PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

Problem 1:

- How many students are in the range 12-13?
- How many now rectify the situation? How many retrieve matters by taking summer school?

Problem 2:

- How many students are in trouble because of simultaneous enrollment?
- And, are these simultaneous enrollments at Community Colleges, Cal State schools, or other UCs?
 - The interpretation of the problem would be different accordingly.

Problem 3:

- Of students who return after being dismissed, how many have subsequent trouble with minimum progress?

CATEGORY2: IMPROVED UNDERSTANDING OF INSTITUTIONAL IMPEDIMENTS

Presumably, some students get into trouble regarding minimum progress because they have failed a course.

- Is the problem often a reluctance to change majors?
- Is the problem with minimum progress the difficulty in class availability, such that courses cannot be taken in the normal sequence?
- How do students themselves describe what caused them to fall below minimum progress?
- Is the trouble the hours worked in jobs?
- How many who have been dismissed have returned to UCD?
- How many of those who had just above 13 units on average later fell into trouble?

In addition, the Committee on Admissions and Enrollment pointed out a separate situation with implementation of the minimum progress regulation. In the Division of Mathematical & Physical Science of the College of Letters and Science, transfer students are admitted independent of whether or not they have completed lower-level requirements for the relevant majors. When students have not done any of the lower-level work, they regularly require three years or more at UC Davis. The result is that students are caught between minimum progress requirements and the College's unit limit. This continuing problem must be addressed, as we are knowingly admitting students into an impossible situation. A possible solution includes requiring appropriate lower-level coursework or easing either the minimum progress or units ceiling requirements. For various reasons, this is not an issue for other college and divisions, with the possible exception of CA&ES.