

FACULTY AGENDA ITEM 14.22

Date: 28 February 2014

Submitted by: *Dr. Nancy Tate, ext. 2546*

SUBJECT: *Transfer of International Credit*

Description: The Office of International Programs in conjunction with the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs is recommending a change in the policy regarding the acceptance of college credit from international colleges and universities. The proposed change is to accept international college credits without including the grade point average earned in these college courses as a part of Washburn University's cumulative GPA. This would be accomplished by converting the grades provided by one of the international credit evaluators (e.g., ECE and WES) in the following manner:

Grade of A, B, or C = CR

Grade of D = P

Grade of F = NC

Rationale: The rationale for this proposed change in policy is based on the fact that the international credit evaluators apply different standards for the awarding of grades when evaluating these international transcripts. One glaring example of this different standard is being provided to illustrate this point. An international student from China requested an evaluation of her international college transcript from both ECE and WES. While both evaluators indicated the student had earned 71 semester credits, one evaluator indicated a cumulative GPA of 3.04 while the other evaluator indicated a cumulative GPA of 3.6—a significant discrepancy in cumulative GPA. Of course, the student is requesting that the evaluation with the higher cumulative transfer GPA be used in the calculation of her Washburn cumulative GPA.

The proposed policy would still allow the transfer of international credit hours earned which could be used by Washburn's academic programs as they chose; however, these students' cumulative GPA would be comprised only of coursework earned from a U.S. regionally accredited institution. This would eliminate the variability of the GPA evaluation from the international credit evaluators and would ensure the international students' cumulative GPAs reflect only grades awarded from regionally accredited institutions within the United States who follow standard grading standards approved by their accrediting agencies.

The implementation of this proposal will require two modifications to Washburn's existing graduation requirements (one for the baccalaureate and one for the associate) which specify the minimum number of graded hours presented for the awarding of a degree. One additional waiver might be required should a department want to accept a course transferred from the international institution as a correlate or major course (requires a grade of C or better). However, departments currently have the

ability to approve the acceptance of a course listed with a grade of CR (since a CR indicates an earned grade of C or better) as satisfying a major/correlate requirement.

Most of the department chairs who currently have or in the past have had international students completing their programs (Business, Nursing, Sociology/Anthropology, CIS, English, Mathematics) have been consulted about this proposed change and are supportive of it.

A similar policy is in place at the following institutions:

Emporia State University

Pittsburg State University

Wichita State University

University of Kansas

If approved, this policy would take effect for students entering Washburn University in the Fall of 2014.

Proposed Changes to the University Catalog are indicated in italics.

Page 21 in University Catalog (International Undergraduate Admissions)

5. Official transcripts of completed secondary education and of any university-level course work *evaluated by either Educational Credential Evaluators (ECE) or World Education Services (WES). The grades of university-level international courses will be listed on the Washburn University transcript as CR (grade of A, B, or C), P (grade of D), or NC (grade of F) and the grade point average earned in international college course transfer work will not be calculated in the cumulative GPA at Washburn University.*

Page 71 in University Catalog (University Requirements Common to All Bachelor Degrees)

15. While there is no specific limit to the total number of semester hours that may be taken on a non-graded basis such as A/Pass/Fail, credit by examination, advanced placement, and/or military service, a minimum of 84 hours presented for graduation must be on a graded basis. *For international students presenting transfer credit from an international tertiary institution accredited by the Ministry of Education (or its equivalent) in that country, a minimum of 60 hours presented for graduation must be on a graded basis since Washburn converts grades earned in these transfer courses to CR, P, and NC.*

Page 72 in University Catalog (University Requirements Common to All Associate Degrees)

10. Forty-two hours must be graded. (Cooperative programs with Washburn Institute of Technology are exempt). *For international students presenting transfer credit from an international tertiary institution accredited by the Ministry of Education (or its equivalent) in that country, a minimum of 30 hours presented for graduation must be on a graded basis since Washburn converts grades earned in these transfer courses to CR, P, and NC.*

Financial Implications: *None*

Proposed Effective Date: Fall 2014

Request for Action: *Approval by Academic Affairs Committee* **March 10, 2014**

Approved by: *Academic Affairs Committee:* _____
Chair's Signature *Date*

Faculty Senate on date

General Faculty on date

Attachments Yes No