March 20, 2015

To: George Pothering, Chair, Academic Standards Committee

From: Lynne E Ford, Academic Affairs

RE: Changes to the Course Repetition Policy section of the Undergraduate Catalog

Many thanks to the Academic Standards and the Academic Planning Committees for feedback on revision to language in the Undergraduate Catalog (and corresponding changes in the Undergraduate Bachelor of Professional Studies Catalog) for 2015-2016. As a result of the March 18, 2015 meeting with Academic Standards, edits to the revision have been made for further clarification and are reflected below. I ask that you report this language change to the Faculty Senate.

The following changes to catalog text are proposed:

p. 26

Current wording: “A passed course may only be repeated once, regardless of the outcome.”

Proposed wording: “A passed course may only be repeated once for a grade. A course withdrawal (W) is not a grade.”

Rationale: A course withdrawal is an “outcome” but not a grade and not one intended to be covered by this repeat restriction. The use of the word “outcome” was confusing to students.

p. 26 under “General Repeat Rules”

Current wording: “Prerequisite Rule: A student may not take a course that is a prerequisite for a course that he/she has already passed and received credit for the second course.”

Proposed wording: Strike this bullet in its entirety.

Rationale: This provision is unenforceable as a general rule. On the pages that follow, several specific restrictions are listed by program or requirement. To enforce the rule, this specific level of detail for each instance is required. Each year, the Associate Provost for Curriculum will invite departments and programs to review this language and modify as appropriate.

P. 27 under “Languages”

Current wording (3rd bullet): “For foreign language courses that range from 101-202, successful completion of a higher-level course prohibits students from taking a lower-level course in the same language for credit.”

Proposed wording:

For foreign language courses numbered 101-202 and Spanish 101-275: Students who have completed a course within this range may not subsequently receive credit for a numerically lower numbered course within the same language. For example, a student has successfully completed French 202. This student may take FREN 101, but he or she will not earn credit for the course nor will the grade be included in the GPA. The French 101 course will be coded as a repeat exclude (no credit/quality points).
For foreign language courses numbered above 202 or above Spanish 275: Students who have completed a foreign language course above 202 or Spanish 275 may not subsequently receive credit for a course in the same language within the range of 101-202 or Spanish 101-275. For example, a student who has credit for an upper-level course elects to take one of these lower-level courses in the same language, the student will not earn credit for the course nor will the grade be included in the GPA. The lower-level course will be coded as a repeat exclude (no credit/quality points).

Rationale: Some students wish to take a lower level course to refresh their skills. This new language precludes receiving a grade or credit for the course but it does not prevent them from registering and receiving instruction. Chairs of Foreign Language departments have been consulted on and have approved this change.