

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY


MEMORANDUM

To: Senate

From: Allan MacKinnon, Chair
Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies

Subject: Change to Academic Standing & Continuance Regulations (New
Evaluation Model)
(SCUS Reference 02 – 10 (rev.2)

Date: April 26, 2002



Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of April 9, 2002 gives rise to the following motion:

Motion:

“That Senate approve that the current regulations governing Academic Standing and Continuance be revised as set forth in S. 02-33 , effective Fall Semester 2003.”

Motion Tabled. Referred back to SCUS.

S.M. 13 May 02

To: Senate

Date: 2000 04 25

Subject: Proposed change to Academic Standing & Continuance Regulations

Motion

At the meeting of 2002 04 09, SCUS passed the following motion:

“ That the current regulations governing Academic Standing & Continuance be simplified and changed as indicated in paper SCUS 02-10, with effect from Fall Semester 2003.”

Summary

- Abolish the “review period” and the “review period gpa”
- Replace it with a semester gpa (sgpa)
- Abolish the ING and INF penalty standings.

Rationale

Our regulations have proven to be exceedingly complex and are barely comprehensible to students, faculty and staff. They require a multi-page booklet to provide explanation and examples, but even this exposition usually also requires a very careful explanation by a well-trained adviser. Very few members of our undergraduate community understand what is required to remain within it. The review period has a different, complex duplicate course rule. The critical “review period gpa”, is unreported to students until they are “Required to Withdraw”.

The current regulations are also inconsistent. While the complexity of the regulations is intended to provide a measure of fairness, whether the student takes five courses per semester or only one or two, the provisions for a minimum length of review period are over-ridden by two special standings, “ING” and “INF” which discontinue some students even before they are placed on Academic Probation. Hence, as no formal warning is given to a student who is at risk from ING or INF, the opportunity might be lost for that student to receive specific advising about, for example, more careful course planning. Hence, our current regulations are less than fair to all students.

Simple modelling indicates that typical outcomes will be similar. Some students might be favoured and others marginally disadvantaged by the changes, but overall, if we assume that students will better comprehend the outcomes of weak academic performance, it can be only beneficial to all involved.

Implementation in Fall 2003 of a new Student Information System provides a timely opportunity to introduce these changes with adequate lead time, publicity and at minimal cost.

Current regulations**Extract from Calendar****Standing Required for Continuance**

Students are expected to maintain acceptable standards of scholarship. Specifically, they must maintain a minimum 2.00 CGPA. A student who does not do so will be considered to be performing unsatisfactorily in his/her studies. Regulations are applied to obtain reasonable equitability between transfer and non-transfer students. The following procedures apply for evaluating student performance in accordance with the policy governing continuance, withdrawal and readmission.

- academic performance will be evaluated on courses for which Simon Fraser University grades have been assigned. ('assigned grade' will include grades A+ through to D, F, DE, and N, but will exclude P, W, CR, AE, CC, GN and AU)
- following admission, no formal assessment will take place until the student has completed a minimum of nine credit hours of assigned grades
- transfer students who were admitted to the University under the 'special entry' category with an admission average below 2.00 and who have attempted nine or more credit hours of transfer credit will be admitted on academic probation

Repeated Withdrawals

- Students who withdraw from all courses in three consecutive semesters of registration will be ineligible to reregister.

Ineligible to Reregister

- A student with a CGPA average of less than 1.0 in two consecutive semesters of registration, or with only N or F grades in two consecutive semesters, will be ineligible to reregister.

Academic Probation

- A student who has received assigned grades for at least nine Simon Fraser University credit hours will be placed on academic probation if the CGPA average earned is lower than 2.00. During the probation period, the student must complete a minimum of nine Simon Fraser University credit hours of assigned grades before reassessment will occur. A student on academic probation may not repeat a course for which a grade of C or higher has been assigned. A student on academic probation may not register in a course overload.

Proposed Regulations

Deletions in ~~strikethrough~~: insertions in **bold**.

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Current regulations/cont

If at the end of the probation period,

- the grade point average on assigned grades during the probation period and the CGPA average (CGPA) are 2.00 or higher, the student will be considered to be in good academic standing
- the grade point average on assigned grades during the probation period is 2.00 or higher, but the CGPA is less than 2.00, the student will continue on academic probation
- the grade point average on assigned grades during the probation period is less than 2.00, but the CGPA is 2.00 or higher, the student will continue on academic probation. (This could apply to students repeating courses during the probation period.)
- both the grade point average on assigned grades during the probation period and the CGPA are less than 2.00, the student will be required to withdraw (RTW) from the University

Required to Withdraw

- After receiving Simon Fraser University assigned grades for at least 18 credit hours (nine if admitted on academic probation), a student may be required to withdraw (RTW) after being placed on academic probation.
- Extended Withdrawal A student must have received Simon Fraser University assigned grades for at least 27 credit hours (or 27 credit hours and transfer credits combined). A student may be placed on extended withdrawal (EW) after first having been required to withdraw (RTW) and then readmitted.

Readmission of Involuntarily Withdrawn Students or Ineligible to Reregister Students

- Former students who are ineligible to reregister (INF only N or F grades in two consecutive semesters) or withdraw voluntarily (INW in three consecutive semesters) whose Simon Fraser University CGPAs are below 2.00, will be eligible for readmission on the same basis as required to withdraw (RTW) and ineligible to reregister (ING) former students (see above). If their CGPAs are 2.00 or higher, they will be eligible for readmission if they complete at least 3 credit hours of further transferable work at a minimum 2.00 GPA.

Proposed regulations

If at the end of the ~~probation period,~~
subsequent semester,

- the grade point average on assigned grades during the ~~probation period~~ semester and the CGPA average (CGPA) are 2.00 or higher, the student will be considered to be in good academic standing
- the grade point average on assigned grades during the ~~probation period~~ semester is 2.00 or higher, but the CGPA is less than 2.00, the student will continue on academic probation
- the grade point average on assigned grades during the ~~probation period~~ semester is less than 2.00, but the CGPA is 2.00 or higher, the student will continue on academic probation. (This could apply to students repeating courses during the ~~probation period~~ semester.)
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- **Current regulations**

- If readmitted, students will be placed on academic probation and will be subject to the conditions described above. If both the CGPA and the GPA on assigned grades are below 2.00 at the end of the probation period, the student will be placed on extended withdrawal (EW) or required to withdraw (RTW), as appropriate.

Academic Alert

- Students whose semester GPAs fall below 2.00, but who are not on any of the above academic standings, will receive an 'academic alert' notification and will be advised to seek counselling at the Academic Resource Office.

- **Proposed regulations**

- If readmitted, students will be placed on academic probation and will be subject to the conditions described above. If both the CGPA and the GPA on assigned grades are below 2.00 at the end of the ~~probation~~ **period first semester following readmission**, the student will be placed on extended withdrawal (EW) or required to withdraw (RTW), as appropriate.

Academic Alert

- Students whose semester GPAs fall below 2.00, but who are not on any of the above academic standings, will receive an 'academic alert' notification and will be advised to seek counselling at the Academic Resource Office.