

GRADUATE COUNCIL REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

DATE: March 2015

FROM: The Graduate School

The Graduate Council submits the following academic policies from the **March 19, 2015** meeting for consideration.

I. Recommendation on Multi-Term Registration Proposal

Graduate Council Recommendation on Multi-Term Registration Proposal

The Graduate Council recommends **not** adopting a multi-term registration policy as proposed by the Retention Task Force. Concerns include:

- Course schedules and faculty assignments must be created and submitted three terms or a full year prior to registration. For example, a student currently registering for spring 2015 would also be allowed to register for fall 2016. With this in mind, *course revisions must be made more than one year in advance*. This timeline would be extremely difficult to address any accreditation, licensure, or certification requirements in an efficient manner.
- Graduate faculty status and faculty credentials in general would have to be approved three terms or a year in advance for accurate scheduling to occur.
- Students who are dropped for nonpayment would need to be batch dropped from the subsequent term enrollment. Reregistration would be required for persisting students. Financial aid payments, bursar office billings, and graduate assistantships would be significantly affected.
- Students placed on probation must meet with their advisors prior to further registration, thus they would need to be batch dropped from the subsequent term enrollment. Reregistration would be required for persisting students. Again, financial aid payments, bursar office billings, and graduate assistantships would be significantly affected.
- Delayed enrollment and intermittent enrollment is common for graduate students. No distinction could be made between students who drop courses in the first term but intend to come in the subsequent enrolled term and those who drop in the first term and *do not* intend to come in the subsequent enrolled term. With no distinction between the two groups, there would be no alternative other than to batch drop these students from the subsequent term. Without a batch drop, course enrollment would be inflated and seats would be filled by students who do not intend to come. Students who are batch dropped but *do intend* to come *would be required to enroll a second time*. Again, financial aid payments, bursar office billings, and graduate assistantships would be significantly affected.
- All grace periods for graduate student enrollment, including allowing one term of enrollment for applicants who apply in their final baccalaureate term, would have to be eliminated so students could not enroll in a complete degree program (1 year) without first evaluating an official undergraduate transcript. Graduate student registration for many first year graduate students would be delayed, thereby negatively affecting graduate student enrollment.
- Fluctuating enrollment would cause systemically inaccurate enrollment data, as well as significantly impacting international students who must maintain full-time enrollment including those in ESLI and pre-master's programs.
- Prerequisite checking will not function properly without the summer term included for students enrolling in the spring and subsequent fall term. For example, a student enrolls in NURS 504 in spring and wants to enroll in NURS 528 in the subsequent fall, but NURS 506 is a prerequisite to NURS 528, the student cannot register for NURS 506 until the summer schedule is made available, thus the student cannot register for NURS 528 in the fall.
- Other university offices that utilize registration holds such as parking and transportation, libraries, etc. would be impacted.

