

## Academic Quality Committee Report April 2 SEC

The next AQ meeting is scheduled for April 16<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM in WAB 208.

The Academic Quality Committee met on 2/23/2018. Minutes to that meeting are included ([Appendix A](#)).

I received notification of three new members from Liz Sturgeon. These represent the newly elected at-large senators for 2018-2020. They are: Mark Schafer (CHHS), James Gary (OCSE), David Serafini (PCAL). Welcome Mark, James, and David to the AQ Committee!

We are working in several areas at present.

First, the Academic Probation Policy. Please note the details in the included minutes. Sharon Mutter has provided a draft document that we have yet to review and revise. This should occur in our next meeting. ([Appendix B](#))

Secondly, the Extension of the Drop (with a W) and Audit change date. It is noted that WKU has the earliest such date in the state among public universities. I have not seen a draft from the action team, led by Jim Fulkerson. Important note here. The SGA has also drafted a resolution ([Appendix C](#)) on this topic that I have passed along to this action team.

Yet another area of interest for this committee, is the COSFL (Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership) Statement provided recently by Molly Kirby. This committee has not been directly involved at this point, but we anticipate working in conjunction with the Faculty Welfare Committee should any supporting resolution be advised. All faculty should be concerned about HB200!

Submitted respectively,

Kirk Atkinson  
Chair, Academic Quality Committee

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### Appendix A

Academic Quality Subcommittee Meeting  
2/23/2018; 1 PM – 2 PM  
GH 441 State Farm Meeting Room

Members present: Olivia Simpson (SGA), Jim Fulkerson, Sharon Mutter, Beth Pyle, Christy Spurlock, Kirk Atkinson (Chair)

Ex Officio members present: Chris Jensen, Tiffany Robinson

Kirk explained how all issues that the committee decides to review and take potential action on, must be referred to an Action team with a Champion. This enables him to remain in the role as chair.

We briefly discussed the status of the policy we passed and sent on to the Senate. This policy effected change to the Academic Bankruptcy policy that helped students that had reached the 60-credit hour threshold. It also amended the policy removing the 2-year sit out rule.

Sharon Mutter read back from her notes in the 9/2017 meeting information related to what work might be remaining to help students that have a “bad” semester. After discussion, it was decided that the new policy change may be sufficient to aid the largest target audience and should be reviewed at a later date for effectiveness.

Other topics were then discussed. The two that were referred to Action Teams are:

1. The Academic Probation Policy. In summary, a student can have a cumulative gpa early in their WKU experience (< 2.0 gpa) and continue without achieving a cumulative gpa of 2.0 before being placed on academic probation. Sharon Mutter, Champion with assistance from Beth Pyle and Olivia Simpson. Other members absent today should contact Sharon directly should they have interest in assisting on this potential policy change recommendation.
2. The Extension of the Drop (with a W) and Audit change date. Currently, WKU has the soonest drop date in the state. The task here is to evaluate the potential of extending these dates and identify any possible unintended consequences. Jim Fulkerson, Champion with assistance from Christy Spurlock and Olivia Simpson. Other members absent today should contact Jim directly should they have interest in assisting on this potential policy change recommendation.

Also, both action teams will receive support from Chris Jensen and Tiffany Robinson as needed.

The meeting was adjourned promptly at 2 PM.

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### Appendix B

Proposal Date: x/xx/xxxx

Academic Quality Committee of the Senate

Proposal to Revise an Academic Policy

(Action Item)

Contact Person: Kirk Atkinson, kirk.atkinson@wku.edu, 270745-xxxx

1. **Identification of Proposed Policy Revision:** Revision of the academic standing policy to:
  - a. Clarify requirements for achieving and maintaining scholastic standards that promote timely graduation
  - b. Facilitate early identification of students who are at risk of academic probation and dismissal
2. **Catalog statement of existing policy:** Page 32-33 of the 2017-2018 Undergraduate Catalog

**Academic Standing**—To be eligible for continuous enrollment without being placed on academic probation, a student must maintain the following scholastic standards in both the overall grade point average and the total institution grade point average (i.e., courses taken at WKU):

- A. A 1.7 overall and total institution grade point average if the student has 17 or fewer GPA hours.
- B. A 1.8 overall and total institution grade point average if the student has more than 18 but fewer than 34 GPA hours.
- C. A 1.9 overall and total institution grade point average if the student has 34 or more but fewer than 51 GPA hours.
- D. A 2.0 overall and total institution grade point average if the student has 51 or more GPA hours.  
Note: At the end of each academic term, students may access their grade report via TopNet which reflects grades for the term, the overall grade point average, and the total institution grade point average.

**Academic Warning** — If the previous academic standing was Good Standing (GS), and the student does not satisfy the term GPA requirement but satisfies the WKU GPA requirement and Overall Higher education GPA requirement, the new academic standing is Academic Warning (AW). Students whose academic standing falls to Academic Warning will be asked to attend an Academic Warning Workshop during the first week of classes. In this workshop, students will learn what it means to be on Academic

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Warning, what the implications are for not raising their GPA, and what resources are available on campus to help them succeed in their coursework.

**Academic Probation** — Students failing to meet the scholastic standards listed above are placed on academic probation. A student on academic probation is allowed continued enrollment on a semester-by-semester probationary status as long as a 2.0 grade point average is maintained each term. The academic probation and dismissal processes for Western Kentucky University are administered by the AARC. The AARC utilizes two of its programs to provide students with resources to reach academic good standing: The Best Expectation Programs (BEP) and The Learning Center (TLC). Please see Academic Standing, Probation, and Appeal under the Academic Information section of this catalog for more information. Students on academic probation are required to participate in the Best Expectation Programs (BEP) through the Academic Advising & Retention Center (AARC).

**Academic Dismissal** — Any student placed on academic probation who fails to earn a current (term) grade point average of 2.0 or higher is academically dismissed and is not eligible to enroll in WKU classes for one calendar year. Academic status for all students who complete a term is shown on TopNet. It is the student's responsibility to stay informed of his / her academic status and to improve academic performance until he / she is returned to good standing status.

**Academic Dismissal Appeal Procedure** — Students who are academically dismissed may file an appeal with Academic Appeal Committee through the AARC. The Academic Dismissal Appeal Committee may dismiss the student from the University or allow the student continued enrollment under academic probation status with stated restrictions for one additional term. A student dismissed from the University by the Academic Dismissal Appeal Committee may appeal the decision to the Executive Appeals Committee. If the Executive Appeals Committee approves an appeal, the student will be permitted to register for an additional semester on academic probation with conditions determined by the Executive Committee at the time of approval. Detailed operational procedures followed by the University Academic Dismissal Appeal Committee may be obtained from the AARC located in the Dero Downing Student Union 2141. Students who are either dismissed or who voluntarily withdraw due to academic deficiencies are eligible to reapply for readmission after one calendar year of absence from WKU. Readmission will be determined according to WKU admission standards at the time of application for readmission. Applications for readmission are to be filed with the Office of Admissions by published deadlines.

### 3. Catalog statement of proposed policy:

**Academic Good Standing**—To be eligible for continuous enrollment without being placed on academic probation, a student must maintain a **2.0** ~~the following scholastic standards~~ in both the overall grade point average (**GPA**) and the total institution **GPA grade point average** (i.e., courses taken at WKU). **Note: At the end of each academic term, students may access TopNet to obtain their term GPA, their total institution grade point average, and their overall grade point average.**

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- ~~A. A 1.7 overall and total institution grade point average if the student has 17 or fewer GPA hours.~~
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- ~~D. A 2.0 overall and total institution grade point average if the student has 51 or more GPA hours.~~  
~~Note: At the end of each academic term, students may access their grade report via TopNet which reflects grades for the term, the overall grade point average, and the total institution grade point average~~

**Academic Warning** — ~~If a student's term GPA falls below the 2.0 requirement, but the student satisfies the 2.0 requirement for the institutional GPA and the overall GPA, the student's new academic standing is Academic Warning. If the previous academic standing was Good Standing (GS), and the student does not satisfy the term GPA requirement but satisfies the WKU GPA requirement and Overall Higher education GPA requirement, the new academic standing is Academic Warning (AW).~~ Students whose academic standing falls to Academic Warning will be asked to attend an Academic Warning Workshop during the first week of classes **of the term following the change in academic standing**. In this workshop, students will learn what it means to be on Academic Warning, what the implications are for not raising their GPA, and what resources are available on campus to help them succeed in their coursework.

**Academic Probation** — ~~If a student's~~ ~~Students whose institutional GPA and overall GPA fall below the 2.0 GPA requirement failing to meet the scholastic standards listed above are placed~~ **the student is placed** on Academic Probation. A student on Academic Probation is allowed continued enrollment on a semester-by-semester probationary status as long as **the student achieves** a 2.0 grade point average ~~is maintained~~ each term **until returning to academic Good Standing**. The academic probation and dismissal processes for Western Kentucky University are administered by the AARC. The AARC ~~utilizes~~ The Best Expectation Programs (BEP) and The Learning Center (TLC) ~~two of its programs~~ to provide students **on Academic Probation** with resources to achieve ~~reach~~ academic Good Standing. ~~Please see Academic Standing, Probation, and Appeal under the Academic Information section of this catalog for more information.~~ Students on Academic Probation are required to participate in the Best Expectation Programs (BEP) through the Academic Advising & Retention Center (AARC).

**Academic Dismissal** — Any student ~~placed on academic probation~~ who fails to earn a term GPA of 2.0 or higher ~~current (term) grade point average of 2.0 or higher~~ **while on Academic Probation** is academically dismissed and is not eligible to enroll in WKU classes for one calendar year. Academic status for all students who complete a term is shown on TopNet. It is the student's responsibility to stay Atkinson

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informed of his / her academic status and to improve academic performance until he / she is returned to good standing status.

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#### 4. Rationale for proposed policy revision

- a. The current policy is confusing to students. For example, students who are in Good Standing with a 1.7 GPA in their first semester at WKU may not be aware that this same GPA will not be sufficient to keep them in Good Standing in later semesters.
- b. Students should be working consistently every term to achieve the 2.0 GPA required for graduation. Under the current policy, students may find it difficult to achieve the GPA they need to graduate.
- c. The AARC does not have a means to intervene with students who are in Good Standing with a GPA below 2.0. It would be beneficial for these students and the institution if we intervene earlier to ensure student success.

#### 5. Impact of proposed policy revision on existing academic or non-academic policies:

- a. Impact on existing policies: None
- b. Impact on populations that may be affected: Certain students who are now in Good Standing under the current policy will no longer be in Good Standing under the proposed policy. It is recommended that these students be given **one term** (?) to bring their GPA into alignment with the new requirements.

#### 6. Proposed term for implementation: Fall 2018

#### 7. Dates of prior committee approvals:

Senate Academic Quality Subcommittee \_\_\_\_\_

University Senate \_\_\_\_\_

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### Appendix C

#### DRAFT! SGA Withdrawal Date Resolution

First Reading: March 27, 2018

Second Reading:

Pass:

Fail:

Other:

Resolution 18-S: Resolution to Support the Push Back of the University Withdrawal Date

PURPOSE: For the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University to support the push back of the university withdrawal date.

WHEREAS: Western Kentucky University's withdrawal date currently occurs halfway through the semester, and

WHEREAS: Many students are not aware of their academic standing in a course at this point in the semester, and

WHEREAS: A later withdrawal date will allow faculty more time to put in substantial grades to indicate the likelihood of a student's success in their course, and

WHEREAS: A later withdrawal date will therefore allow students more time to make informed decisions for academic success without the financial burden of a withdrawal fee, and

WHEREAS: A later withdrawal date will likely increase retention rates, and

THEREFORE: Be it resolved that the Student Government Association of Western Kentucky University support the push back of the university withdrawal date.

AUTHOR: Conner Hounshell, Chief of Staff  
Kara Lowry, Administrative Vice President  
Andi Dahmer, Student Body President  
Savannah Molyneaux, Executive Vice President

SPONSOR: Academic and Student Affairs

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Dr. Patricia Minter, Chair of Faculty Welfare Committee  
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