

MEMORANDUM

TO: Greg Crouch, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee  
FROM: University Academic Advising Executive Council  
Susan Poch, Chair  
SUBJECT: Proposed Academic Regulation 38B  
DATE: February 24, 2017

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For the past several years we have tracked freshmen students who earn below a 1.0 cumulative grade point average in their first semester at Washington State University.

A great deal of university resources are directed at this population to provide additional tutoring, academic support seminars, and multiple advising meetings. Yet, even with the additional focus on retaining this population, most fail to take advantage of these resources or fail to increase their GPA to above 2.0 and ultimately drop out. Our data indicates that more than two-thirds of students who earn a gpa below 1.0 in their first semester have dropped out by their third semester at WSU (approximately 200 students in Pullman; 10 at WSUTC; 15 at WSUV; Global students were not included in the data, N's are too small).

The majority of students who earn below a 1.0 GPA in their first semester do so because they are not engaged in the campus community or their coursework. They do not attend class or complete assignments. Moreover, evidence suggests that these students are also more likely to be more disruptive within their living groups (i.e. residence halls, chapter houses).

The University Academic Advising Executive Council (UAAEC) and the Reinstatement Committee, therefore, propose a new academic regulation that would "recess" (dismiss for one semester) freshmen students who earn below a 1.0 GPA in their first enrolled semester. These students would receive information about the university's petition process for retroactive withdrawals; they would be provided information on how to find academic resources at a community or technical college; and they would receive information about the reinstatement process in order to resume their academic career at WSU. The goal is to help these students to return, repair, and resume their WSU academic career.

The UAAEC and the Reinstatement Committee feel strongly that this proposed academic regulation is a positive step for students who may not be ready to handle the academic rigor of WSU. It will send a strong message about WSU's reputation as an academically strong institution. Perhaps more importantly, it will keep them from further damaging their academic credentials and help students' financial aid long-term eligibility.

If we allow this population of students to continue, for example, they will accumulate more than \$13,000 *each semester* in additional debt if they live on campus. The costs increase for out-of-state students: nearly \$21,000 *each semester*. Receiving a student after his/her first term of enrollment would potentially save up to \$26,000 for an in-state student (the difference between one semester and three semesters' cost of attendance).

ASWSU, Housing, Academic Success and Career Center, Office of Access, Equity and Achievement, Student Financial Services, academic advisors, and the other campuses have been consulted in the development of this proposed regulation. There has been good support, particularly with the process defined above. As an example, the Housing office will work with students to cancel their year-long contract, and if necessary, to extend the days available for students to retrieve their belongings, even after the start of a new semester.

We request the Academic Affairs Committee's consideration and support of this proposed regulation. We have vetted the proposed regulation with Provost Bernardo and his staff and have their support. We are eager to move this forward through the appropriate channels to Faculty Senate, with implementation fall 2017. Thank you.

38. Academic Probation and Recess for At-risk Students:

a. Undergraduate students whose semester (excluding summer session) or cumulative grade point average drops below a 2.0 for the first time must apply for reinstatement to continue their enrollment at Washington State University. Students are placed on probation after reinstatement. Certified majors on academic probation may be decertified by the academic department.

b. First-time, first-year undergraduate students are recessed from the University after their first term of enrollment if their semester grade point average is below 1.0. Individuals are recessed from the university for one full semester (Fall or Spring). To reenroll for courses offered through any WSU campus students must apply for reinstatement. Recessed individuals may not seek status as a non-degree seeking student. Recessed students may enroll in summer session.