

March 14, 2013

To: Faculty Senate

From: Craig Parks
Chair, Academic Affairs

Re: Minimum GPA requirement for certificates

At the Senate meeting of 28 February, Academic Affairs was directed to take up the question of whether a 2.00 minimum GPA is appropriate for certificate programs. We discussed this at the AAC meeting of 6 March. Our conclusion is that the current policy is sufficient, though departments with certificate programs should be reminded that they may establish a higher GPA requirement if they so desire. We feel that individual programs know best what constitutes minimum competence in the focus area. Particular disciplines may see someone with a "C" average as ready to apply the skills that the certificate program has helped them develop, whereas others may see such a student as deficient in one or more skills. In fact, a number of certificate programs already use 2.50 as the minimum required GPA (e.g., Professional Sales certificate through the College of Business, Early Childhood Development and Care certificate through the Department of Human Development), so it may be that departments are moving toward a uniformly higher standard anyway. That said, we would be happy to entertain a proposal should one be put forth, but AAC does not see a need to initiate such a proposal at this time.