

January 26, 2015

To: Dr. Jay Gogue

Through: Dr. Timothy Boosinger, Provost

Through: The Auburn University Senate

From: Dr. Xing Fang, Chair, Academic Standards Committee

Subject: Proposal to Revise the *Policy and Procedures for Establishing or Changing the Enrollment Cap of an Undergraduate Major* (“the CAP Policy”)

As you know, the 2013-2018 Auburn University Strategic Plan establishes as its first priority to “Enhance Student Success and Diversify Enrollment.” This priority is supported by a number of strategic goals and commitments that are intended to further its success. Among them is “*Strategic Goal 1: The University will emphasize student retention and achievement by encouraging and expecting timely degree completion and by clearing pathways to student success.*” One means of furthering that goal is to review academic policies that may unintentionally delay students’ progress toward obtaining their Bachelor’s degree.

One such potential obstacle to a timely graduation is found in the first paragraph of the CAP policy:

Based on its land-grant traditions of service and access, according to its mission statement, Auburn University will provide students broad access to the institution’s educational resources. Therefore, as a basic principle, students who are **in good standing** should be allowed access to the majors of their choice, subject to constraint of educational resources, including insufficient numbers of faculty to provide a quality learning experience to all who wish to enroll. (**emphasis added**)

The phrase “in good standing” is a formal term that refers to a student who has at least a 2.0 cumulative Auburn GPA. There are students, however, whose GPAs have fallen below 2.0, but who are still eligible to enroll in classes at Auburn (Such students are “on academic warning”). As the policy is currently written, students who are eligible to enroll at Auburn may not be able to change majors because they are not “in good standing.” As such, they may not be able to receive the most thorough advising possible because they are not eligible to transfer into a major that may better suit their talents. Frequently, students are on academic warning because they have been in a major that did not match their interests and abilities well, and transferring to a more appropriate major best action to take to help them increase their GPA and their likelihood of completing an Auburn undergraduate degree.

Consequently, the Academic Standards Committee recommends revising the current policy. The proposed revision is as follows (revisions in **bold**):

Based on its land-grant traditions of service and access, according to its mission statement, Auburn University will provide students broad access to the institution’s educational resources. Therefore, as a basic principle, students **who are currently enrolled** should be allowed access to the majors of their choice, subject to constraint of educational resources, including insufficient numbers of faculty to provide a quality learning experience to all who wish to enroll.

Thank you for your consideration.