

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 Course Repeat 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 policy is the course repeat policy, which is currently as follows:

***Repeat of Courses***

*No student may repeat a course for credit in which the student has previously earned a grade of A, B, or C without written permission by the student’s academic dean. Courses specifically designated as repeatable in the Auburn University Bulletin are exempt from this regulation. Students may repeat courses in which they earn a grade of D or F. Grades and hours for both attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA unless the [Grade Adjustment Policy](#) has been invoked for the first attempt. If the grade adjustment policy is not invoked in the case of the repeat of a D grade, then the course credit hours may count only once toward graduation unless the course is designated as repeatable. **(2014-2015 AU Bulletin)**.*

The current policy places no limits on the number of times a student who has earned a D/F in a course may attempt to pass it. A review of student records by the staff of the Office of Institutional Research and Assessment indicates that between Fall 2007 and Spring 2014, approximately 6% of students (3,244) had taken a non-repeatable course three or more times. Typically, the courses repeated were Calculus III, Differential Equations, or English Composition II. A separate review of selected transcripts has revealed more than one student who has taken the same course seven times

In cases in which a student has repeated a course multiple times, it is very likely that a better course of action would have been for the student to have been counseled to change his or her major to a discipline that would more closely match his or her talents. Such conversations are difficult to have,

but they could help put a student on a path toward achieving academic and career success and save a student thousands of dollars.

Consequently, the Academic Standards Committee recommends revising the current policy. The revision would limit the number of times a student could take a class, but it would also provide an avenue through which an academic associate dean might grant the student permission to take the course an additional time if circumstances warranted. The proposed revision is as follows (revisions in **bold**):

#### **Repeat of Courses**

No student may repeat a course for credit in which the student has previously earned a grade of A, B, or C without written permission **from** the student's academic dean. Courses specifically designated as repeatable in the Auburn University Bulletin are exempt from this regulation. Students may repeat **only once** courses in which they earn a grade of D or F **without written permission from the student's academic dean**. Grades and hours for both attempts will be included in the calculation of the GPA unless the [Grade Adjustment Policy](#) has been invoked for the first attempt. If the grade adjustment policy is not invoked in the case of the repeat of a D grade, then the course credit hours may count only once toward graduation unless the course is designated as repeatable.

Thank you for your consideration.