

## Shared Governance Proposal

- I. **Date:** April 2, 2018
- II. **Sponsoring Constituents:** Graduate Council, Graduate Council Policy Group, Office of Academic Affairs and Research
- III. **Statement of the Issue:** Modify the Graduate Bulletin to clarify graduate student suspension and readmission policies (pg. 40).
- IV. **Rational for Proposal:**

On September 21, 2017, the Graduate Council formed a subcommittee, the Graduate Policy Group (GPG), to discuss policies regarding university graduate programs. The GPG is comprised of Joan Henley (COEBS), Elizabeth Hood (AET), Karen Wheeler (AAR), Shawn Drake (NHP), Gil Fowler (CLAC), John Mello (BU), Amanda Wheeler (COEBS), Thomas Risch (CSM), and Ashley Schulz (GSC). At its first meeting, the GPG determined that the Suspension and Readmission of Suspended Students policies (*Graduate Bulletin*, page 40) are a top priority.

The proposed revision of the Suspension and Readmission of Suspended Students policies addresses a recurring issue for which there was no University policy that established minimum guidelines. This clarification will establish the number of times a student can be suspended and re-admitted.

- V. **Type of review (i.e., expedited, full, or extended):** Expedited

## STUDENTS ACTIVATED FOR MILITARY SERVICE

Arkansas code § 6-61-112 provides the following for students called into full-time military duty during an academic semester.

(a) When any person is activated for full-time military service during a time of national crisis and therefore is required to cease attending a state-supported postsecondary educational institution without completing and receiving a grade in one or more courses, the following assistance shall be required with regard to courses not completed.

(1) Such student shall receive a complete refund of tuition and such general fees as are assessed against all students at the institution or (see '(c)' below).

(A) Proportionate refunds of room, board, and other fees which were paid to the institution shall be provided to the student, based on the date of withdrawal.

(B) If an institution contracts for services covered by fees which have been paid by and refunded to the student, the contractor shall provide a like refund to the institution.

(2) If the institution has a policy of repurchasing textbooks, students shall be offered the maximum price, based on condition, for the textbooks associated with such courses.

(b) When a student is required to cease attendance because of such military activation without completing and receiving a grade in one or more courses, the institution shall provide a reasonable opportunity for completion of the courses after deactivation.

(c) A student activated during the course of a semester shall be entitled, within a period of two years following deactivation, to free tuition for one semester at the institution where attendance had been interrupted unless federal aid is made available for the same purpose.

To prevent students who are receiving veteran's benefits from being penalized and having to repay such benefits, students activated during an academic semester who have not completed sufficient course requirements for the awarding of a grade must withdraw from the university. Students should contact the VA representative in the Office of Admissions, Records and Registration immediately upon notification of activation to initiate the withdrawal process.

## PROBATION

Any graduate student whose cumulative GPA on all courses taken for graduate credit falls below

3.00 at the end of a semester will be placed on probation. Students may be removed from probation by raising their cumulative GPA to 3.00 or better at the end of a semester. Failure to make a grade of "B" or better in each course taken while on probation will result in suspension from further graduate work. A graduate student on probation may not hold an assistantship and is not eligible for graduation.

## SUSPENSION

~~Any graduate student who receives a grade of "F" in any graduate-level course will be ineligible to register for further graduate work suspended from the University and his/her program. A grade of "I" will be converted to "F" if it is not removed before the last day to withdraw during the next semester in which the student is enrolled at the university or within one calendar year if the student does not enroll.~~

## READMISSION OF SUSPENDED STUDENTS

~~After one regular semester or full summer in suspended status, students may be readmitted on probation, but only upon recommendation of their advisor and department chair and with the approval of the Registrar in consultation with the Provost. Readmission to the University does not imply readmission to a particular degree program. The student must reapply to the program.~~

Upon recommendation of their advisor and department chair and with the approval of the Office of the Provost, a student may apply for readmission to the University on probation, after a minimum of one regular semester or full summer.

Readmission to the University does not imply readmission to a particular degree program. A student must reapply to the program and will only be readmitted upon recommendation of their advisor and department chair. A student suspended a second time is ineligible for readmission to the same program. If a student is suspended from more than one program they are ineligible for readmission to the University.