

Great Basin College Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee

Written Committee Report

Online Conference: 29 October 2014 – 3 November 2014

Present: Scott A. Gavorsky (Chair); Mike Elbert; Danny Gonzales; Dale Griffith; Doug Hogan; Jan King; Scott Nielsen; Diane Wrightman [quorum]

An online conference was held to discuss the following issues:

1) The Committee received a request from a student applying for admittance to the BSN program to transfer in with an Associate Degree in Nursing. A review of the submitted transcripts revealed that the credit awarded for the Associate degree was via exam rather than classwork, and the number of such courses exceeded the limits specified for exam-based transfer credit.

The NSHE Board of Regents and GBC have established standards for the maximum acceptance of transfer credit based on examination (see BOR Policies, “Section 21: Community College Admission to Advanced Standing”). The particular request, however, presents a number of unique issues:

- a) The request is for admittance to a program with a completed degree, not transfer of credit to a status of advanced standing within a program.
- b) The existing Associate degree is from a fully accredited school, and the specific program awarding the degree is also specifically accredited (confirmed with the Nursing Department). The accreditations were current at the time the degree was awarded.
- c) Degrees from accredited institutions/programs are regularly accepted by GBC.
- d) BOR Policy states “Acceptance of various types of credit will be governed by the college's transfer credit policy or *by the entity designated to govern and evaluate such matters*” (Section 21, paragraph 3; emphasis added).

ACTION: Given the specifics of this particular case, the Committee has voted to allow the acceptance of the Associate degree *in toto*. The Director of Admissions should award the student credits based on the submitted transcript with no limit on the awarding of exam-based credit. The student will need to complete any lower-division course requirements for the program for which credit was not awarded on the Associate degree.

Future requests for similar transfer credit will be submitted individually to Academic Standards until such a time that the NSHE BOR revises or establishes formal policies for such transfers.

2) As requested by the Chair of the By-Laws Committee, the Committee was asked to devise a short list outlining the main functions of the Academic Standards Committee. The Committee has agreed on the following list of functions:

- Sets general academic regulations in the joint interests of students, faculty, and the institution.
- Recommends policies concerning admissions and acceptance of transfer credits.
- Reviews departmental requests for the granting of non-traditional credit.
- Oversees the formal grade appeal process for students and faculty.

3) The Committee was asked to consider writing a new Intellectual Property Policy governing GBC and NSHE use of faculty-developed content. The consensus of the Committee was that Academic Standards is not the proper forum for such a project, since the Committee's emphasis is more on student-faculty-institution interactions. The Chair was asked to convey this sense of the Committee to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.

The Committee will hold a meeting in November to continue discussions on revisions to the Grade Appeal policy.

Scott A. Gavorsky, Ph.D.
Chair, Academic Standards Committee