



Digest

CONSULTATION

TITLE: Revisions to Withdrawal and Repetition Sections in Chapter 6 of Title 5 and to Immediate Supervision in Chapter 9

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ISSUE

This item proposes revisions to the title 5, division 6, chapter 6, Part 2 changes that were approved by the Board of Governors in May 2008 and that became effective on June 16, 2008. During the implementation of Part 2 changes, it became evident that the title 5 sections on credit course withdrawal and repetition needed further revision. This item includes proposed revisions to those sections. In addition, this item includes a suggested change for chapter 9 to address immediate supervision of students participating in Early Childhood Education courses with TBA hours or “hours to be arranged.”

BACKGROUND

As part of the implementation of the System Strategic Plan, divisions within the System Office undertook a broad review and revision of chapter 6 of title 5 of the California Code of Regulations. Chapter 6 covers several important topics including course and program approval, curriculum standards, standards of scholarship, and requirements for the associate degree.

In Fall 2006, staff from the Academic Affairs and Legal Affairs divisions began discussing the review of chapter 6 with the System Advisory Committee on Curriculum (SACC) and with a special SACC subcommittee which met on several occasions and reviewed numerous drafts of the proposed regulation changes. Distribution of the proposed changes to additional constituencies beyond the Academic Senate and Chief Instructional Officers (CIOs) resulted in identification of a list of sections that required further input and discussion and that would be addressed in a subsequent Part 2 regulations package.

The first package of proposed changes was approved by the Board of Governors at its July 2007 meeting. The Part 2 changes were presented to the Consultation Council in January 2008 and subsequently released to the general community college stakeholders for comments. Revisions, based on input received, were submitted to the Consultation Council for discussion at its February 21, 2008

meeting, and a Part 2 package was then presented to the Board of Governors and approved at its May 2008 meeting.

In November 2008, the SACC heard a presentation by the Chief Student Services Officers (CSSOs) that identified unintended impacts caused by the interaction of the new title 5 regulations on withdrawal (section 55024) and credit course repetition (sections 55040 and 55042). A work group that included representation from the CIOs, Academic Senate, CSSOs and the System Office was formed to draft solutions and recommend changes to correct these implementation issues. The resulting changes are presented in this item.

This item also proposes a regulation change to address an issue regarding immediate supervision of students enrolled in courses with TBA hours or “hours to be arranged” in Early Childhood Education (ECE). In November 2008, a work group was formed to discuss issues related to the minimum qualifications for the TBA hours associated with ECE courses. During TBA hours, ECE students gain experience in child care centers or other laboratories for student teaching. Language was developed with input from ECE instructors that would permit immediate supervision of students engaged in student teaching activities to be shared by academic personnel of the district and a person at the local child care center who is not an academic district employee but who possesses, at a minimum, a Master Teaching Child Development Permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, or equivalent. This item proposes an amendment to section 58055 of Article 5 of Subchapter 1 of chapter 9 of Division 5 of title 5 that will permit shared responsibility for supervision of ECE student teachers.

ANALYSIS

The attached proposed revisions include additional changes to title 5 sections that were revised in 2007 and 2008 with regard to withdrawal from and repetition of credit courses. It also includes an amendment to section 58055 that addresses immediate supervision of students participating in student teaching activities as required by Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs.

1. Section 55024. Withdrawal.

Section 55024 authorizes districts to establish policies on withdrawal and describes requirements which such policies must satisfy. During the consideration of the first round of revisions to chapter 6, there was discussion about the possibility of limiting the number of times a student could withdraw, receive a “W,” and re-enroll in a course. At that time, the proposal was to limit students to three re-enrollments after receiving a “W.” Due to concerns about the restrictive nature of this proposal, a regulation change was adopted without any limitation on re-enrollment. After further consideration, section 55024 in Part 2 of the title 5 revisions adopted in May 2008 added a new subdivision (a)(9) which

generally limits to no more than four “Ws” as a result of withdrawal from the same credit course. Districts are allowed to adopt more restrictive policies or to adopt policies permitting additional withdrawals based on a petition from the student demonstrating that the need for withdrawal is due to extenuating circumstances.

Proposed revisions in this section would facilitate the process of withdrawal and re-enrollment and assignment of “Ws.” The first revision would include language in subdivision (a)(4) that requires that appropriate faculty is informed when students withdraw from a credit course after the end of the fourth week of a term (or such time as established by the district), but language was removed that requires that appropriate faculty be notified prior to the withdrawal. Language would also be removed from subdivision (a)(8) in regard to a student withdrawing from a course when he or she reasonably believes that he or she may be subject to discriminatory treatment or retaliation for alleging discriminatory treatment, while retaining regulatory protection for any student determined to have withdrawn for those reasons. Revisions are proposed in subdivision (a)(9) that retain the maximum of four “Ws,” but clarify that after a student has received four “Ws,” district policy may permit the student to petition to re-enroll in the course with approval of a district official; the district, however, may not claim apportionment. A new subdivision (a)(11) would be added to require that district policy include provisions for intervention when a student develops a pattern of repeated withdrawals.

Finally, subdivision (d)(1) would be clarified so that students who withdraw from a course to report for military service will be assigned the “MW” symbol that does not affect GPA and that will not be counted toward the permitted number of withdrawals.

2. Section § 55040. District Policy for Course Repetition.

This section was substantially amended in part 2 to list all of the circumstances in which a district may allow course repetition.

This revision proposes that the definition of “course repetition” in subdivision (b)(1) be changed to mean the occurrence when a student who has previously received an evaluative symbol (A, B, C, D, F, P, or NP) re-enrolls in the course and receives an evaluative symbol. The “W” symbol as defined in section 55023 is a nonevaluative symbol and does not, therefore, interact with credit course repetition.

3. Section § 55042. Course Repetition To Alleviate Substandard Academic Work.

This section describes the circumstances under which a student may be permitted to repeat a course which is not otherwise repeatable in an attempt to alleviate substandard work previously recorded on the student's transcript.

This revision to subdivision (a) would allow a district to permit a student to petition to repeat a course when the two attempts for grade alleviation have been exhausted and the student has been assigned three substandard grades, provided that state apportionment is not claimed for the additional enrollment of that student. This change also proposes that the district may exclude the first two substandard grades when computing the student's GPA if the student repeats the course two or more times.

Finally, this section now permits a student to use up to two repetitions for repeatable courses for grade alleviation purposes, provided that the student does not exceed the limitation specified in 55041(c)(6).

4. Section 58055. Immediate Supervision.

This section describes exceptions to the requirement in section 58050(a)(6) that state apportionment will only be claimed when students are "under the immediate supervision of an employee of the district." Exceptions in this section are made for health sciences education programs and for programs sponsored by the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Program.

This amendment proposes a shared responsibility for supervision of students in Early Childhood Education programs when the person to whom a student reports is not an academic district employee. Supervision in this situation would be shared by the academic personnel of the district and a person who possesses, at a minimum, a Master Teacher Child Development Permit issued by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, or the equivalent.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Council is asked to review the package of revisions and endorse them for presentation to the Board of Governors at its May 2009 meeting for a first reading, no action.

We believe there is a broad consensus among all affected groups for the proposed changes and that these revisions represent important positive policy changes with regard to withdrawal and repetition. Further, we believe there is a broad consensus among all groups for the change in immediate supervision of students who are engaged in student teaching activities required by Early Childhood Education programs.