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MEMORANDUM

To: Julio Frenk
University President

From: Tomás A. Salerno
Chair, Faculty Senate

Date: April 21, 2016

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2015-39(B) – Request to Revise Freshman Repeat Policy,
Academic Standards Committee

The Faculty Senate, at its April 20, 2016 meeting, voted with two abstentions to approve the proposal submitted by the Academic Standards Committee to revise the Freshman Repeat Rule to include all students. The name of the Freshman Repeat rule will be changed to the Undergraduate Repeat Rule. The revisions will allow a student to repeat a maximum of two classes, and will allow a student to use his or her two “repeats” throughout his or her college career.

Under the revisions, a class may only be repeated once, and the second grade will count towards a student’s GPA, whether higher or lower than the initial grade. Also, instead of requiring students to repeat a course within 12 months after completing the initial course, students will be allowed to repeat the course within two regular semesters of enrollment after the semester in which the initial course was taken. This change is in line with similar repeat rules at our peer institutions.

This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

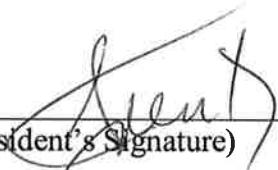
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Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
William Green, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education
Kysha Harriell, Chair, Academic Standards Committee

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2015-39(B) – Request to Revise Freshman Repeat Policy, Academic Standards Committee

PRESIDENT'S RESPONSE

APPROVED:  DATE: 5/9/16
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: Registrar's Office / Dr. Bill Green

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

A RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI ACADEMIC BULLETIN'S FRESHMAN REPEAT POLICY

The Academic Standards Committee (ASC) voted unanimously to amend the Freshman Repeat Rule to include all students. Thus, the name of the Freshman Repeat rule would be changed to the Undergraduate Repeat Rule.

The proposal presented is intended to replace the current freshmen repeat rule. We wish to keep the maximum number of repeated classes at two but allow a student to use them throughout his/her college career. A class can only be repeated once and the second grade will count towards the GPA whether higher or lower. In addition, instead of being required to repeat the course within 12 months after the initial course, students must repeat the course within two regular semesters enrolled after the initial course was taken.

This change is in line with similar repeat rules at our peer institutions.

This request for change was brought to the ASC by legislation from Student Government ACTION #15018.

Rationale for Repeat Change Rule (adapted from Student Government Bill):

1. The repeat rule should be extended to all students including upperclassmen;
2. There are factors outside of a student's control that may hinder his or her academic performance;
3. Other high ranking schools and peer schools observe similar repeat rules;
4. The current freshman repeat rule excludes transfer students;
5. The University would still maintain academic standards because students could only repeat two courses within a definitive timeline;
6. Giving students the opportunity to repeat a course urges students to perform better academically and promotes personal growth and improvement as well;
7. Under this policy, students will gain a better understanding of the material in classes in which they previously underperformed;
8. Changing the requirement from "12 months after the initial class" to "within two regular semesters enrolled", allows a student who may have had to take time off from school to utilize the repeat rule.

A student may repeat a course, but the repetition will not eliminate the previous grade from the record. A course may be repeated only once¹ unless written authorization is provided by the chair of the department in which the course is offered or, in the case of an un-departmentalized school, by the dean.

Illegal Repeat

A student may not repeat a course in which a grade of C or higher has been earned. This is considered an illegal repeat.

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General Undergraduate Repeat Rule

- If the initial grade is D+ or lower (or a C- in cases where an academic unit requires a C or higher), both the initial grade and the repeat grade are included in the computation of the student's cumulative grade-point average (CGPA).
- If the initial grade is a D or D+ (or a C- in cases where an academic unit requires a C or higher) and the repeat grade is passing, the number of credit hours required for graduation will be increased by the number of credit hours repeated.
- Registrations that involve repeating a course in which a grade of C or higher (or C- in cases where an academic unit does not require a C or higher) has already been earned do not earn quality points or credit hours, nor count as credit hours attempted.
- Courses repeated after graduation² will be posted to the transcript showing the grade received; however, the CGPA and credits earned will not be modified based on the grade received for the repeated course.

~~Freshman~~ Undergraduate Repeat Rule

- A student may elect to repeat up to two courses that were taken at the University of Miami ~~within that student's first two semesters of college work³ and~~ in which the student earned a grade of D (including D+) or F. Each repeated course must be taken at the University of Miami, must be the same course as the course initially taken, and must be completed within two regular semesters enrolled following the initial course. +2 months after the end of the semester (or summer session) in which the initial course was first taken
- No course may be repeated more than once under this rule. A course repeated more than once under the University's General Repeat Rule will not qualify under the Freshman Repeat Rule Undergraduate Repeat Rule.
- Enrollment for a second time in a course constitutes a repeat of that course for the purposes of this rule, unless the student withdraws from the course on or before the University's published Last Day to Drop a Course date.
- For each repeated course, only the second grade (whether higher, or lower, or the same as the first grade) will be used in the computation of the student's CGPA. The initial course

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will not count as credit hours attempted or earned, although the initial course grade will remain on the student's permanent record.

- Students who plan to apply to graduate and/or professional school should be aware that such institutions may recalculate the CGPA to include the initial grade earned before the repeat.

¹ This does not include courses that are eligible to be repeated for credit (e.g. Special Topic courses, Music lessons, etc.). Courses that are eligible to be repeated are designated in the student information system, CaneLink. Courses may have limits on the number of times they may be repeated.

² This refers to courses or a course with a particular grade required for entry into a different degree program.

³ ~~First two semesters includes work at all schools attended, not just the University of Miami.~~

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Freshman Repeat Policy

Green, William Scott

Tue 4/5/2016 5:09 PM

To: Harriell, Kysha, Ph.D. <kharriell@miami.edu>;

To: Kysha Harriell
From: W.S. Green
Re: Amended Freshman Repeat Rule

The Faculty Senate Academic Standards Committee has done a careful review of the Freshman Repeat Policy and has suggested responsible changes to it. The recommended changes bring the University's policy in line with those at several of our peers and create fresh possibilities for students in all classes to strengthen their learning. I concur with the Committee's recommendation.

Wm Scott Green
Professor of Religious Studies,
Senior Vice Provost,
Dean of Undergraduate Education
[University of Miami](#)
[Coral Gables, Florida 33124-4628](#)
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