

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Agenda Item Summary Sheet**

**Committee:** Academic and Student Affairs

**Date of Meeting:** October 17, 2012

**Agenda Item:** Proposed Amendment to Board Policy 2.9 Academic Standing and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress (First Reading)

- Proposed Policy Change       Approvals Required by Policy       Other Approvals       Monitoring
- Information

**Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:**

Policy amendments require Board action.

**Scheduled Presenter(s):**

Mike López

**Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:**

The proposed amendment clarifies that certain aspects of each college and university Academic Standing Policy may differ from the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.

**Background Information:**

The Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy and the Academic Standing Policy at each college and university are required to have the same grade point average requirements and completion percentage requirements. This has led to questions about whether other aspects of the policies must be the same or may differ. The proposed amendment helps to resolve those questions.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

**BOARD ACTION ITEM**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BOARD POLICY 2.9 ACADEMIC STANDING AND  
FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS**

**BACKGROUND**

Federal financial aid regulations require that an institution's financial aid satisfactory academic progress policy be as strict as, or stricter than, its policy on academic standing. The Board took action in 2006 to require that the grade point average requirements and percentage of completion requirements be the same in each institution's policies. This has led to some questions about other aspects of the policies. The proposed amendment provides clarification by establishing that other elements of these policies may differ.

**RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION**

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

**RECOMMENDED MOTION**

The Board of Trustees approves the proposed amendment to Policy 2.9 Academic Standing and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress.

**MINNESOTA STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**  
**Board Action Item**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO POLICY 2.9**  
**Academic Standing and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress**

## **2.9 Academic Standing and Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress**

Measurement of student satisfactory academic progress toward achievement of an academic award is an important activity in higher education. Such measurement provides feedback to students and ensures responsible action by colleges and universities regarding effective use of state resources.

Student academic progress must also be monitored to ensure effective and responsible management of federal and state student financial aid. Students within the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities are often enrolled in more than one institution. Students also transfer frequently among colleges and universities. Therefore, institutional financial aid satisfactory academic progress policies shall be as uniform as possible, consistent with individual institutional missions.

**Part 1. Academic Standing Policy.** Each college and university shall develop a policy requiring students to maintain good academic standing and describing the academic performance standards students must meet to maintain good academic standing. This policy shall apply to all students, whether receiving financial aid or not. At each institution, the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy and Academic Standing Policy shall have the same grade point average requirement and percentage of completion requirement. Institutional policies may provide for reinstatement to enroll in classes following academic suspension under conditions different from those required for financial aid reinstatement. Other aspects of the Academic Standing Policy and the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Policy including maximum timeframe, recognition of academic amnesty, and other elements, may vary; provided, that the Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy must be as strict as, or stricter than, the Academic Standing Policy.

**Part 2. Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy.** Each college and university shall develop an institutional satisfactory academic progress policy that shall apply to all students receiving federal or state financial aid. The Chancellor shall develop a system procedure for Board Policy 2.9 that shall contain required elements and parameters for these institutional policies, and each college and university satisfactory academic progress policy and procedure shall conform to the requirements of the system procedure.

**Part 3. Annual Review and Report to the Board.** The system office shall annually review each college and university financial aid satisfactory academic progress policy and procedure to ensure continued compliance with the system procedure. Significant exceptions shall be reported to the Board of Trustees.

*Date of Adoption: 9/20/95,*

*Date of Implementation: 09/20/95,*

*Date and Subject of Revision:*

*11/16/11 - Effective 1/1/12, the Board of Trustees amends all board policies to change the term "Office of the Chancellor" to "system office," and to make necessary related grammatical changes.*

*05/17/06 - amended the title to include Academic Standing and added new part 1, Academic Standing Policy. Also repealed Carry Forward Community College Policies III.02.06 Academic Standards and IV.07.01 Academic Suspension.*

*03/17/04 - replaced almost all policy language.*

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**POLICY CONTENT FORMAT:**

*Single underlining represents proposed new language.*

*~~Strikeouts~~ represent existing language proposed to be eliminated.*