

**TO:** Maria Elena Solino, Chair  
Undergraduate Committee

**FROM:** Christina Gola  
Academic Policy and Procedures Subcommittee

**SUBJECT:** UC 12223 12F: Proposal for catalog policy language clarification

**DATE:** February 14, 2013

APPROVED FEB 20 2013

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The Academic Policies and Procedures Subcommittee met on Wednesday, January 30<sup>th</sup> to consider a proposal brought forth by the UC Undergraduate Catalog Subcommittee. Participating in the meeting and subsequent email discussions were subcommittee members Christina Gola, Shishir Shah, Lesley Sisk, Stephen Soutullo, and Larry Williams. Melissa Pierson attended as a guest.

**Background**

The Undergraduate Catalog Subcommittee recently reviewed current policy language in the catalog. Based on the review, it asked the Academic Policy and Procedures Subcommittee to review the following two sections and consider language changes for clarification purposes.

**Details**

**Academic Regulations > Academic Standing**

<http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/policies/academ-reg/academic-standing/index.php>

This section of the catalog details the policy standards for Academic Notice, Probation, Suspension, and Readmission. At the bottom of the Academic Notice, Probation, and Suspension section, a statement reads, *“Without regard to these regulations, the dean of a college may place any majors in that college whose academic records are deficient on academic probation, retain on probation, or suspension.”*

The Undergraduate Catalog Subcommittee suggested the statement clarify that the Dean also has the ability to readmit.

Upon review, the Academic Policy and Procedures Subcommittee felt that Readmission policy section (which is directly below the statement being discussed) makes clear that the Dean has this ability to readmit. Thus we voted to keep the language as is.

**Degree Requirements > Graduation Under a Particular Catalog**

<http://www.uh.edu/academics/catalog/policies/degree-reqts/graduation-under-catalog/index.php>

This section of the catalog details the exceptions that apply to students’ entitlement to graduate under the catalog in effect at the time of their first completed semester enrollment. #5 of this section reads, *“At the discretion of their college dean, students will be required to comply with all changes in the curriculum made subsequent to the years enrolled. Deletions and additions of courses will be of approximately equal credit so that no student will have an overall appreciable increase of total credits required for graduation.”*

The Undergraduate Catalog Subcommittee felt in this situation, it would be appropriate for the Dean to make a recommendation of a plan of action to the provost, rather than have complete discretion.

Upon review, the Academic Policy and Procedures Subcommittee felt that the Dean should have discretion, because degree programs are the property of the college, and thus a plan to the provost is not the best course of action. However, the subcommittee did agree that the language needs clarification. The statement is not meant to harm students and is actually in the best interest of the students. Thus the committee drafted new language that reads:

*Students will be required to comply with all changes in the curriculum made subsequent to the years enrolled. Careful consideration will be given to all deletions and additions of courses, and will be of approximately equal credit so that no student will have an overall appreciable increase of total credits required for graduation, unless otherwise approved by the Dean of the college.*

**Recommendation**

The APP subcommittee recommends that the UC vote to leave the “Academic Standing” section language unchanged and change #5 of the “Graduation under a Particular Catalog” section as written in italics above, for implementation in Fall 2013.