FACULTY AGENDA ITEM NO 16-7

Date: *24 November 2015*

Submitted by: *Dr. Nancy Tate, ext. 2546*

SUBJECT: *Modification – Academic Residency Requirement*

Description: *Modify the academic residency requirement for the baccalaureate and associate degrees to provide more flexibility for students who attend multiple institutions of higher education.*

Rationale: The current residency requirement is confusing and does not adequately deal with today's students who transfer in and out of multiple institutions before completing sufficient coursework to attain their degree. This policy change attempts to: 1) provide two options for the establishment of curricular residency for the baccalaureate degree, 2) more closely match the Higher Learning Commission's definition of residency, 3) eliminate the illogical requirement that only an exact number of hours can be transferred back for a Washburn degree to be awarded, and 4) provide less rigidity for the awarding of associate or baccalaureate degrees to students who leave Washburn late in their college career and wish to transfer coursework back to complete a degree.

This final reason is especially important for the associate degree residency requirement given the state-wide implementation of the KBOR reverse transfer policy which mandates the accepting of transfer credit after a student has begun attending another institution. Under this state-wide Reverse Transfer Agreement the 4-year regents' institutions and Washburn University will notify transfer students after they have completed at least 15 hours at their institution of their potential eligibility to earn an associate degree from the community college/Washburn from which they transferred if they choose to participate. The 15-hour designation was determined by KBOR based on the fact that 14 of the 19 community colleges have a 15-hour residency requirement. Washburn's current policy requiring the completion of at least 12 of the last 24 hours might significantly reduce the number of eligible reverse transfers awarded by Washburn. Given the increasing emphasis on degree completion, it is to Washburn's advantage to be able to claim more students attaining a credential by means of the reverse transfer initiative.

Current Residency Requirement – Baccalaureate Degree (2015-2016 University Catalog, pg.80):

9.   For the bachelor degrees, at least 30 hours must be earned in residence at Washburn, including 20 of the last 30 or 40 of the last 60 presented for the degree. At least 25 percent of the credit hours required for the major must be taken at Washburn.

Proposed Baccalaureate – Required Institutional Credits:

9.   **Of the last 45 hours required to complete the bachelor degree, at least 30 must be earned from Washburn University OR at least 90 of the total overall hours required to complete the degree must be earned from Washburn University.** In both cases, at least 25% of the credit hours required to fulfill the major **(and at least 12 hours of the upper division credits in the major)** must be earned from Washburn University**. Programs with professional accreditation standards may have more stringent requirements. The academic residency requirement will be waived in the case of formal articulation agreements.**

Current Residency Requirement – Associate Degree (2015-2016 University Catalog, pg, 81)

8.   Twenty-four credit hours must be completed at Washburn University; of these, 12 of the last 24 must be Washburn University credits.

Proposed Associate – Required Institutional Credits:

8.   **At least 15 of the last 30 hours required to complete the degree** must be earned **from** Washburn University. **Programs with professional accreditation standards may have more stringent requirements. The academic residency requirement will be waived in the case of formal articulation agreements.**

Financial Implications: *None*

Proposed Effective Date: *Immediately*

Request for Action: *Approval by AAC/FAC/FS/ Gen Fac, etc*

Approved by: *AAC on 4/4/2016*

          FAC on date

          Faculty Senate on March 21, 2016

Attachments   Yes ☐   No ☐