Admissions & Academic Policy Committee
Proposal – Academic Standing
As amended and approved at the meeting on November 22, 2010

Proposed Change: This proposal would make the following changes in the academic standing policy:

(a) change quality points to semester hours as the standard to meet;
(b) add an Academic Warning component prior to Academic Probation;
(c) explain the conditions that accompany Academic Probation;
(d) remove conditions limiting participation in student organizations and extracurricular activities;
(e) establish a maximum number of semesters on probation;
(f) delete the sliding GPA scale for remaining on probation;
(g) change the first suspension from two semesters (including summer) to two semesters (excluding summer) – i.e., fall and spring.

Submitted: October 27, 2010
Submitted by: Carole Beere, chair of Catalog Committee

Rationale: This proposal will strengthen the existing policy by raising the standard to remain on probation and limiting the number of hours students can remain on probation. These changes will help to prevent situations in which students float just above the 2.000 line but come up short in their final semester(s) in achieving the 2.000 required for graduation. The changes also will require students to seek academic support and will remove penalties that discourage continuing at NKU.

CURRENT POLICY: NKU Undergraduate Catalog (p. 27)

ACADEMIC STANDING FOR UNDERGRADUATES

a. Good Standing
A student is in good standing when he/she has more than 16 quality hours with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) that meets or exceeds 2.000. A student with 0-15 quality hours is in good standing with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) that meets or exceeds 1.66.

b. Academic Probation/Suspension
A student who fails to meet the cumulative 2.00 GPA required for good standing is placed on academic probation for the next enrolled semester.

A student on academic probation will be suspended unless:
1. The student earns a 2.000 GPA or higher for the probationary semester (semester GPA) or
2. The student meets or exceeds the following cumulative GPA standards at the end of the probationary semester:

   Cumulative GPA of:
   0.00 for 0-15 quality hours
   1.250 for 16-30 quality hours
   1.500 for 31-45 quality hours
   1.750 for 45-59 quality hours
   2.000 for 60+ quality hours

Quality hours are semester hours attempted in courses numbered 100 or above. A student whose grade-point average is below the cumulative 2.00 GPA required for good standing, but above the cumulative GPA standards for suspension, will be continued on academic probation for the next semester enrolled.

A student on academic probation who has been previously suspended and who is suspended a second time will receive the penalty of a second suspension. No student will be suspended prior to accumulating 15 quality hours or without being placed on probation for the preceding semester.

**Probation**

A student on academic probation is not allowed

1. to serve as an officer or committee member in any campus organization;
2. to participate in any University extracurricular activity or in the activity of any University organization if the participation involves expenditure of an appreciable amount of time;
3. to carry more than 13 semester hours during any fall or spring semester;
4. to carry more than 6 semester hours at one time during summer sessions or more than one course in intersession.

**Suspension**

1. A student suspended from NKU or another institution for the first time for academic reasons is required to remain out of school for at least two full semesters (the summer sessions taken together being considered as one semester).
2. After serving the period of suspension, a student may be reinstated or admitted to the University. To be reinstated or admitted, the student must meet with the appropriate college’s associate dean or school’s chair to discuss academic standing and future direction. **This meeting must occur by August 1 for fall semester, December 1 for spring semester, and May 1 for summer sessions.** If the suspended student has remained out of school for more than four years, the student must complete and submit an application for readmission to the University once reinstatement has been approved.
3. Students transferring to NKU, ineligible to return to their previous institution(s) because of academic deficiencies or if they have a cumulative G.P.A. of less than 2.000, will follow the same process described above in # 2.

**Second Suspension**

A student suspended a second time will not be reinstated to NKU except in unusual circumstances and then only on recommendation by the appropriate dean and approval by
an ad hoc group, consisting of the appropriate associate/assistant dean from each of the undergraduate colleges plus the Director of the Academic Advising Resource Center. To petition for reinstatement after a second suspension, the student must meet with his/her appropriate associate/assistant dean or the Director of the Academic Advising Resource Center by the dates specified above and then must submit an appeal letter to the above described group. If reinstatement is approved, the student must then complete and submit an application for readmission to the University.
PROPOSED POLICY: Academic Standing for Undergraduates

a. Good Standing

A student is in good standing when he/she has more than 16 semester credit hours (including all 100-level and above courses attempted by the student) with an overall grade point average (GPA) that meets or exceeds 2.00. A student with 0-15 semester credit hours is in good standing with an overall grade point average (GPA) that meets or exceeds 1.66.

b. Academic Warning

1. The first time a student’s overall GPA drops below 2.00 (or below 1.66 if the student has fewer than 16 semester credit hours), the student is placed on Academic Warning and will receive a letter indicating the student’s status and the consequences of being on Academic Warning. When a student is placed on Academic Warning:
   (a) A registration hold is placed on the student’s record, which prevents the student from registering for classes prior to meeting with an adviser.
   (b) The student will be required to meet with an adviser to remove the registration hold and to develop a plan for improving the student’s academic performance.
   (c) The student will be advised to take advantage of the university’s many services that support student success.

2. A student will be placed on Academic Warning only once in their academic career and for only one semester (either fall or spring semester). At the end of the semester of Academic Warning, one of two things will happen:
   (a) If the student’s overall GPA has increased to at least 2.000, the student will be removed from Academic Warning.
   (b) If the student has failed to increase his/her overall GPA to at least 2.000, then the student will be put on probation.

b. Academic Probation

1. When a student is placed on Academic Probation:
   (a) A registration hold is placed on the student’s record, which prevents the student from registering for classes prior to meeting with an adviser.
   (b) The student will be required to meet with an adviser to remove the registration hold and to develop a plan for improving the student’s academic performance.
   (c) The student will be allowed to take no more than 13 semester credit hours during fall and spring semester, and no more than one class in any one summer session or winter session.
   (d) The student is expected to work closely with his/her adviser to identify and take advantage of the university’s many services that support student success.
2. A student will be removed from academic probation status if he/she achieves an overall GPA of at least 2.00.

3. A student may remain on academic probation for a maximum of four consecutive semesters (counting fall and spring only) if each semester, he/she earns a semester GPA of at least 2.0 (considering only spring and fall).

c. Probation to Suspension

1. A student on academic probation who fails to earn a semester GPA of at least 2.000 will be suspended.

2. A student may be on academic probation for no more than four consecutive semesters (considering only spring and fall). If at the end of four semesters, the student does not have an overall GPA of at least 2.00, the student will be suspended.

d. First Suspension

1. A student suspended from NKU or another institution for the first time for academic reasons is required to remain out of school for at least two full semesters (counting only spring and fall).

2. After serving the period of suspension, a student may be reinstated or admitted to the University. To be reinstated or admitted, the student must meet with the dean (or dean’s designee) for the student’s college’s or if the student is “undeclared,” the Director of the Academic Advising Resource Center, to discuss academic standing and future direction. This meeting must occur by August 1 for fall semester, December 1 for spring semester, and May 1 for summer sessions.

3. If the suspended student has remained out of school for more than four years, the student must complete and submit an application for readmission to the University once reinstatement has been approved.

4. Step #2 also applies to students transferring to NKU, ineligible to return to their previous institution(s) because of academic deficiencies or if they have a cumulative G.P.A. of less than 2.00

e. Second Suspension

1. A student suspended a second time is required to remain out of school for at least two full semesters (counting only spring and fall).

2. The student will not be reinstated to NKU except in unusual circumstances and then only under the following circumstances:
(a) The student meets with the appropriate college dean (or dean’s designee) or the Director of the Academic Advising Resource Center if one lacks a declared major and obtains a positive recommendation for reinstatement.

(b) The student submits an appeal letter to the ad hoc group described in (c) below.

(c) An ad hoc group, consisting of the dean (or dean’s designee) from each of the undergraduate colleges plus the Director of the Academic Advising Resource Center, approves the student’s request for readmission.

(d) Steps (a) through (c) are completed by August 1 for fall semester, December 1 for spring semester, and May 1 for summer sessions.

(e) If reinstatement is approved, the student must then complete and submit an application for readmission to the University.

**Implementation Recommendation:** To go into effect Fall 2011, if SAP is ready for implementation; otherwise, to go into effect Fall 2012.