

Motion *re* Ten-Year Rule

Referred from the FSEC on Behalf of the College of Health and Human Services

Motion:

The Faculty Senate recommends that the catalog language in the following paragraph under Graduation Policy be changed:

Current language:

Any course work in the major more than 10 years old at the time of matriculation may be reviewed by the chair of the department in which the student is housed, and the chair may require the student to take more current courses in lieu of those previously taken.

Proposed language:

Any course work **required for** the major more than 10 years old at the time of matriculation may be reviewed by the chair of the department in which the student is housed, and the chair may require the student to take more current courses in lieu of those previously taken. **Courses to be reviewed may include those with the major prefix as well as supporting courses required for the major.**

Rationale:

The current policy in our catalog regarding the ten year rule states that a student coming to RU for the first time with transfer courses more than 10 years old may have their transfer courses reviewed by the department chair of their major to see if **prerequisite or major courses** need to be re-taken in order to count for a degree here.

Currently, all transfer courses more than 10 years old are being sent to the department chair of the individual course (for example, a nursing major who took the equivalent of PSYC 121 at a community college 12 years ago will have that course reviewed by the Psychology Department Chair, not the Nursing Director). This requires a lot of time on the part of Registrar's Office staff who look up course descriptions for these courses, send them to Chairs, then update the evaluations, but it also requires a lot of time on the part of each Department/School Chair or Director. Overall, this time-consuming process is hindering the recruitment of non-traditional students, a growing population of college students.

This wording change requested above is related to a motion submitted to and approved by the Faculty Senate in the spring of 2014. We ask that the catalog section be revisited by the Faculty Senate because the explanation of the policy change presented to the Faculty Senate did not sufficiently reflect the intention behind the policy change submitted by the College of Health and Human Services.

Last year, the Registrar argued before the Faculty Senate that the motion before the Faculty Senate at that time would allow department chairs and school directors to decide if a student should be awarded transfer credit for previously evaluated courses in their disciplines that were completed at another institution over 10 years ago. The current policy (at the time) did not allow any courses taken at other institutions more than ten years ago to transfer to RU. The policy proposal passed the Faculty Senate, was approved by the Provost, and the Registrar's Office implemented it in the way that the Registrar had represented to the Faculty Senate.

The intent of the policy change proposed by the College of Health and Human Services, however, was vastly different from what the Registrar understood it to be. The College wanted the 10 year policy on transfer credit eliminated so that there would be no expiration date on transfer credit but wanted to allow the department chair or school director of the student's major to determine if any courses over ten-years old needed to be retaken for that major. The departments and schools would still be responsible for determining whether and how courses within their disciplines transfer to RU, and Core Curriculum requirements would be evaluated for transfer credit the same way courses taken less than 10 years ago are evaluated; but the student's major department would determine if a student needs to retake courses with the major prefix as well as supporting courses required for the major that were completed over ten years ago for which the student earned transfer credit.

Because the Registrar's explanation to the Faculty Senate of the intent of the policy change proposal was different than what the College of Health and Human Services intended, the language change proposed above is submitted to clarify the policy and bring it in line with the outcome intended by the College of Health and Human Services.