Approval of minutes from meeting on August 29, 2018.

The minutes of the August 29, 2018, meeting were approved.

Motion to Add Repeat Limits on Mathematics Core Courses

Presented by John Medlock, College of Arts & Sciences.

On the third repeat and beyond, students’ chances of passing math courses decline quickly. After students’ first DFW, university advising reaches out to inform students about the support available to them, including the new STEM center downtown and centers on the Perimeter campuses that provide support.

With the repeat limit, after the second failed attempt, students will be required to go to University Advising to talk about their major choices and available support and tutorials to figure out how to succeed and if they need to re-consider their majors. If students have a reason to make a third attempt and beyond, they will need to petition to retake a course. There will be a very liberal approach to approving the first petition.

The limit is intended to encourage advisement and support, not to penalize students. Allison Calhoun-Brown commented that “the message is not ‘change your major,’ it’s ‘here’s what you need to do to be successful.’”

Proposed Effective Term: Fall 2019.

Motion:

Students may take the following core curriculum mathematics courses only twice without special approval:

- MATH 1111 College Algebra
- MATH 1113 Precalculus
MATH 2211 Calculus

After completing the course two times (first attempt and one retake), students will need to petition the university for approval to retake the course a third time. Students will need to submit the petition to the University Advisement Office. Withdrawals (excluding those for nonpayment and other non-academic withdrawals) will count as an attempt.

Rationale:
Currently, there is no limit on the number of times a student may retake the core mathematics courses listed. As is indicated in the tables on the following pages, the likelihood of earning a passing grade in each of the courses declines after the first attempt and the overall DFW rate remains very high for all subsequent attempts. (Additional data that informed this motion included in the appendix.) Setting the retake limit at one will provide students with a reasonable opportunity to earn a passing grade in the course.

Unfortunately, students pursuing majors or associates pathways that require specific core mathematics courses (either as program requirement or as a prerequisite for a program requirement) are too often motivated to make many repeated attempts at passing the course. By instituting a repeat limit on the indicated courses, students who wish to make a third or subsequent attempt will be required to submit a formal petition to the University Advisement Center for an exception to the repeat rule. The petition process will include consultation with an academic advisor about available tutorial services and possible alternative majors/pathways that do not require Math 1111 or above. Units with majors/pathways requiring appeals will be kept informed of the outcomes of the appeal process and consulted as necessary.

Motion approved with one nay.

No new business

Adjourned at 1:08.

Recorder: Lori Howard

Remaining Committee Meeting Dates for 2018-2019 Senate Year

November 28, 2018
January 30, 2019
March 27, 2019
April 24, 2019 (June and July meetings will be called if needed.)