

**Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
Memorandum of Action**

MOA – 17/02

REVISION OF PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE POLICY

Name of Council(s)/Committee(s):

Undergraduate Studies Council

Approval Date:

November 8, 2016

Implementation Date:

Upon Administrative Approval

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt revisions to the Provisional Acceptance Policy

Marilyn Kritzman, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Council

Date

Approve Disapprove Other Action
Comments:

Suzan F. Ayers, WMU Faculty Senate President

Date

Approve Disapprove Other Action
Comments:

Timothy J. Greene, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date

Approve Disapprove Other Action
Comments:

John M. Dunn, WMU President

Date

**Western Michigan University
Faculty Senate
Memorandum of Action**

MOA – 17/02

REVISION OF PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE POLICY

RATIONALE

This issue was brought to the attention of the Transfer of Credit Committee by the provost. The College of Aviation was developing an agreement with an institution that was not regionally accredited where students would transfer in a block of 66 credit hours. Under the current policy, this credit, that was reviewed and approved by the WMU aviation faculty, would not be added to the transferring students' records until after they completed 26 credit hours of WMU courses with a GPA of 2.0 or above. This raised a couple of ethical issues.

1. Was it right to withhold the transfer credit for two entire semesters? Students were taking classes without knowing where they stood academically. In this situation, it would be impossible for the students to take advantage of systems on campus, such as Degree Works, which are designed for student success. In addition, it is hard to see the connection between the success of the student at WMU and the transferability of the credit. If the WMU faculty decide that the credit was of enough quality that it should transfer, then the success of the student is irrelevant.

2. This policy creates a situation that is unfair to other WMU students. In the aviation case, students were bringing in enough credit hours to be classified with junior status. Since the credit was not posted until after they had completed at least 26 credit hours at WMU, they were taking junior classes, for which they should have been paying upper level tuition, at lower level tuition since they officially had no credit hours completed. This inconsistency will be eliminated by the revised policy.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt revisions to the Provisional Acceptance Policy

CURRENT POLICY (additions in bold and deletions with strikethrough)

Western Michigan University ~~normally~~ **typically only** accepts **credit from institutions of higher education that are** ~~work taken at a college or university~~ accredited by a regional accrediting agency, **such as the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) or the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)** ~~(for example, North Central Association of Colleges and Schools)~~. ~~Work taken at a college or university~~ **Credits completed at an institution that is** accredited by **some other national or a specialized program accreditor may only** ~~an agency other than a regional accrediting agency may be accepted~~ **upon review and approval by faculty from the appropriate department(s) or areas of study.** ~~on a provisional basis, subject to validation. The validation process consists of successful, subsequent completion of 26 semester hours of course work at WMU or at another regionally accredited school with a minimum GPA of 2.0. Trend of the most recent grades also will be taken into account. The credit will be awarded after the validation has been completed.~~ **In order to accept the credit, the approving department or program must outline the exact credits that will transfer for specific courses, or as a block, in a Memorandum of Understanding with the sending institution, and transcribed by WMU prior to the student beginning classes at WMU. WMU is responsible for all credit it transcribes, whether earned on campus or transferred from another institution. Per HLC policy, by transcribing transferred credit, WMU attests to the relevancy, quality, and rigor of the coursework completed at the other institution.**

PROCEDURES

The Transfer of Credit Committee looked at the ethical issues involved in the current policy and simply found them unacceptable

ANTICIPATED IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Fall 2017