MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2008

TO: Dr. Angie Hill Price
   Speaker, Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. David W. Parrott
       Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. These changes are for the following section:

Section 57.1.1
SUBMITTED BY:
Name: Jon F. Hunter (Chair, Academic Appeals Panel)
Department: Department of Veterinary Physiology & Pharmacology
Email: jhunter@cvm.tamu.edu
Phone: 979-862-1024
Mailstop: 4466

EXISTING RULE:

57.1.1 Suspension for Academic Deficiency
The student shall discuss the suspension with his or her academic dean. If no change in status results from the discussion, the student may appeal to the Undergraduate Academic Appeals Panel. The panel will have a regularly scheduled meeting to deal with suspensions during the first full week of classes in the fall and spring semesters. To assure proper action, students are urged to initiate the appeals process immediately upon suspension with these two regularly scheduled meetings in mind.

RULE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:
Suspension or Blocked Enrollment for Academic Deficiency
The student shall discuss an academic suspension or blocked enrollment with their academic dean or his or her designee. If no change in status results from the discussion and the rationale for suspension or blocked enrollment still seems arbitrary, capricious or prejudiced to the student, the student may appeal to the Undergraduate Academic Appeals Panel. The panel will have a regularly scheduled meeting to deal with suspensions during the first full week of classes in the fall and spring Semesters. To assure proper action consideration of their appeal, students are urged to initiate the appeals process immediately upon suspension or being blocked from enrollment with these two regularly scheduled meetings in mind. Appeals must be filed no later than the week immediately preceding the start of the semester.

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE:
The present practice within colleges is to block enrollment of a student for academic deficiency. Such an action effectively suspends the student from the University. The proposed wording is intended to reflect current college procedures.

Possible rationale for appealing a decision to block enrollment have been added. This is intended to inform the student that their justification for an appeal must be based on the dean's decision being arbitrary, capricious or prejudiced.

The addition of the dean's designee was added for consistency with recent rules changes.

A specific deadline for filing an appeal with the Undergraduate Academic Appeals Panel has been added to allow a few days to collect pertinent information on blocked enrollment practices.
from the academic dean (or his or her designee). Standard practices for blocked enrollment and academic probation vary significantly between colleges. Consistency of these procedures within a college and dissemination of academic deficiency criteria will likely be important factors in the appeals process.

The first full week of classes has been changed to the first week of classes to reflect the effect of the Martin Luther King Holiday on classes for the Spring Semester. The first week of classes is the appropriate time for an appeal; students need a timely decision to continue their studies at Texas A&M University should their appeal be upheld.

**COMMENTS:**

2-15-2008 Passed by the Student Rules and Regulations Committee
MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2008

TO: Dr. Angie Hill Price
Speaker, Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. David W. Parrott
Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. These changes are for the following section:

Section 57.4
SUBMITTED BY:
Name: Jon F. Hunter (Chair, Academic Appeals Panel)
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EXISTING RULE:

57.4 The chair, after receiving all the required documentation and materials, shall set the hearing for the earliest possible date and inform the student of the time and place for the hearing. The failure of the student to appear without justifiable cause shall terminate the right to appeal. For a suspension appeal hearing, the concerned dean or the dean’s representative shall be present if considered appropriate by the chair. For grade and/or absence appeal hearing, the instructor and/or his or her department head shall be present if deemed necessary by the chair.

RULE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:

The chair, after receiving all the required documentation and materials, shall set the hearing for the earliest possible date and inform the student of the time and place for the hearing. The failure of the student to appear without justifiable cause shall terminate the right to appeal. For a suspension or blocked enrollment appeal hearing, the concerned dean or the dean’s representative his or her designee shall be present if considered appropriate by the chair. For grade and/or absence appeal hearing, the instructor and/or his or her department head shall be present if deemed necessary by the chair.

JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE:

The present practice within colleges is to block enrollment of a student for academic deficiency. Such an action effectively suspends the student from the University. Adding "or blocked enrollment" is intended to reflect current college procedures.

COMMENTS:

2-15-2008 Passed by the Student Rules and Regulations Committee
MEMORANDUM

DATE:  February 27, 2008
TO:  Dr. Angie Hill Price
      Speaker, Faculty Senate
FROM:  Dr. David W. Parrott
        Chair, Rules and Regulations Committee
SUBJECT:  Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

Attached please find proposed revisions to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee. These changes are for the following section:

Section 1.18
EXISTING RULE:

1.18 A “W” may be approved by the dean of the student’s college if a student is allowed to drop a course anytime during the semester due to unusual or extenuating circumstances.

Students who no longer participate in the University’s ROTC program may drop military, naval or air science courses with a designation of "W".

RULE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:

1.18 A “W” may be approved by the Dean of the College or his or her designee if a student is allowed to drop a course anytime during the semester due to unusual or extenuating circumstances. These circumstances include:

- a severe illness or other debilitating condition that affects the student’s ability to satisfactorily complete the course;
- the student’s responsibility for the care of a sick, injured, or needy person if the provision of that care affects the student’s ability to satisfactorily complete the course;
- the death of a person who is considered to be a member of the student’s family or who is otherwise considered to have a sufficiently close relationship to the student that the person’s death is considered to be a showing of good cause;
- the active duty service as a member of the Texas National Guard or the armed forces of the United States of either the student or a person who is considered to be a member of the student’s family or who is otherwise considered to have a sufficiently close relationship to the student that the person’s active military service is considered to be a showing of good cause;
- the change of the student’s work schedule that is beyond the control of the student, and that affects the student’s ability to satisfactorily complete the course; or
- other good cause as determined by the Dean of the College or his or her designee.

Students who no longer participate in the University’s ROTC program may drop military, naval or air science courses with a designation of "W".

A student seeking to drop a course due to unusual or extenuating circumstances should initiate this request with the Dean of the College or his or her designee. Requests should include appropriate documentation of the student’s unusual or extenuating circumstances. The Dean of the College or his or her designee may determine whether a student has demonstrated such good cause as to warrant a drop with a grade of “W”. Requests for “W” drops must be made on or before the last class day, as defined by the academic calendar, of the semester in which the course is being taken.
JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE:

This proposed rule change expands the definition of the “W” drop such that it may be used to distinguish course drops that do not count toward the limit of six imposed by section 51.907 of the Texas Education Code (SB 1231). Under TEC 51.907 and Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rules, institutions are required to have a policy for determining drops for good cause. The guidelines established in this proposed rule change are taken from the rules adopted by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board at its meeting in October 2007.

COMMENTS:

1-11-2008 Tabled by R&R Committee. Dr. Boyd will take back to AOC for clarification.
2-15-2008 New language inserted (“as defined by the academic calendar”) in last sentence.
2-15-2009 Passed by Student Rules and Regulations Committee

Submitted by:
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