MEMORANDUM

DATE:        June 20, 2008

TO:          Dr. Clint Magill
             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 10.10.1
EXISTING RULE:

10.10.1 First Year Grade Exclusion Policy (Revised 2006)
A fully admitted, currently enrolled Texas A&M undergraduate student who is “first time in college” as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as "first time in college"* may elect to exclude from his/her undergraduate degree and cumulative GPR calculation grades of D, F, or U. This exclusion shall be permitted for up to a maximum of three courses taken for credit at Texas A&M University during the twelve month period beginning with the student's initial enrollment at Texas A&M.

The first year grade exclusion option may be used by current "first time in college" freshmen for courses taken in the twelve months beginning with their initial enrollment at A&M. Sophomores, juniors and seniors also may use the exclusions for courses taken in their first twelve months as "first time in college" freshmen, dating from initial enrollment.

*First time in college: an undergraduate, degree seeking, student who applied and enrolled in college for the first time regardless of whether the student has acquired college level credit through testing, advanced placement or summer enrollment

- All courses chosen for first year grade exclusion shall remain on the official transcript and be designated on the transcript as excluded.

- First year grade exclusion cannot be invoked after a baccalaureate degree has been conferred upon the student.

- First year grade exclusion requests for degree candidates must be received in the Office of the Registrar not later than 5 p.m. the day midterm grades are due when the student is graduating in a fall or spring semester or not later than 5 p.m. Friday of the third week of class for the second summer session when the student is graduating in August.

- First year grade exclusion will affect student classification if excluding a course lowers total completed hours below 95, 60, or 30 hours.

- Grades for courses in which the student was found to have committed academic dishonesty will not be excluded from the GPR calculation, regardless whether or not the student completed remediation.

- A course for which the grade has been excluded will not be used to satisfy degree requirements unless it is repeated by the student for an acceptable grade.

- Once a grade in a course has been excluded from the GPR calculation, the student will not later be permitted to have the exclusion removed or otherwise changed.
Courses for which grades have been excluded will be counted as attempted hours when determining eligibility for tuition rebates, calculating excess credit hours, and determining third-time repeats.

Courses for which grades have been excluded will not be taken into account when determining eligibility for a change of major, scholarships, or achievement based awards.

Courses excluded under this policy are NOT excluded when determining whether the student is meeting satisfactory academic progress requirements (hours completed) for federal and state financial aid programs.

While excluded courses will not be factored into Texas A&M University GPR, students should be aware that employers, professional schools, and graduate schools may recalculate the GPR to include such grades.

University rules regarding Q drops remain unaffected, but students should consult with their undergraduate associate dean or his/her designee.

Students are directed to contact their academic advisor to obtain the necessary form.

10.10.1 First Year Grade Exclusion Policy (Revised 2006)
A fully admitted, currently enrolled Texas A&M undergraduate student who is “first time in college” as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board as "first time in college"* may elect to exclude from his/her undergraduate degree and cumulative GPR calculation grades of D, F, or U. This exclusion shall be permitted for up to a maximum of three courses taken for credit at Texas A&M University during the twelve month period beginning with the student's initial enrollment at Texas A&M University after high school graduation. Transfer students are not eligible for first year grade exclusion.

The first year grade exclusion option may be used by current "first time in college" freshmen for courses taken in the twelve months beginning with their initial enrollment at A&M, only by an undergraduate student who applied and enrolled for the first time at Texas A&M University, regardless of whether the student has acquired college level credit through testing, advanced placement, or summer enrollment. First year grade exclusion may be used only for courses taken at Texas A&M University during the first 12 consecutive months of college enrollment after high school graduation. Sophomores, juniors and seniors also may use the exclusions for courses taken at Texas A&M University in their first twelve months as "first time in college" freshmen college students, dating from initial enrollment.

* First time in college: an undergraduate, degree seeking, student who applied and enrolled in college for the first time regardless of whether the student has acquired college level credit through testing, advanced placement or summer enrollment
• All courses chosen for first year grade exclusion shall remain on the official transcript and be designated on the transcript as excluded.

• First year grade exclusion cannot be invoked after a baccalaureate degree has been conferred upon the student.

• First year grade exclusion requests for degree candidates must be received in the Office of the Registrar not later than 5 p.m. the day midterm grades are due when the student is graduating in a fall or spring semester or not later than 5 p.m. Friday of the third week of class for the second summer session when the student is graduating in August.

• First year grade exclusion will affect student classification if excluding a course lowers total completed hours below 95, 60, or 30 hours.

• Grades for courses in which the student was found to have committed academic dishonesty will not be excluded from the GPR calculation, regardless whether or not the student completed remediation.

• A course for which the grade has been excluded will not be used to satisfy degree requirements unless it is repeated by the student for an acceptable grade.

• Once a grade in a course has been excluded from the GPR calculation, the student will not later be permitted to have the exclusion removed or otherwise changed.

• Courses for which grades have been excluded will be counted as attempted hours when determining eligibility for tuition rebates, calculating excess credit hours, and determining third-time repeats.

• Courses for which grades have been excluded will not be taken into account when determining eligibility for a change of major, university scholarships, or achievement based awards.

• Courses excluded under this policy are NOT excluded when determining whether the student is meeting satisfactory academic progress requirements (total hours completed, percent completion, and GPR) for federal and state financial aid programs.

• While excluded courses will not be factored into Texas A&M University GPR, students should be aware that employers, professional schools, and graduate schools may recalculate the GPR to include such grades.

• University rules regarding Q drops remain unaffected, but students should consult with their undergraduate associate dean or his/her designee.

• Students are directed to contact their academic advisor to obtain the necessary form.
JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE:

The reason for the change is that the original rule defined FTIC using the THECB definition of “degree seeking”. We had a situation in which 3 students entered TAMUQ as U0’s in 07A, completed 07B as U0’s and then became U1’s in 07C. These students now wish to FYGE courses taken on 08A. Technically they will be allowed to as U0 is a not degree seeking status. They became degree seeking with U1 status and became FTIC with U1 status, so one interpretation of the rule is that the 12-month clock began in 07C. The AOC Deans consider the spirit of the FYGE rule to be for the students’ first 12-months of college after graduation from High School, so we have revised the rule to reflect this point. We have also removed all reference to FTIC. Finally we have clearly stated that FYGE is not available to transfer students.

Other changes to the bullets are submitted by Scholarships and Financial Aid to bring the wording of FYGE in line with changes in State and Federal rules and requirements.

COMMENTS:

6/20/2008 Passed by Student Rules and Regulations Committee

Submitted by:
Date: 6/17/2008

J. Martyn Gunn, PhD
Dean of Undergraduate Programs and
Associate Provost for Academic Services