MEMORANDUM

DATE:       July 16, 2009

TO:         Dr. Robert Bednarz
            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:

8.6-8.7.13
EXISTING RULE:

8.4 Rule Removed

8.5 Rule Removed

8.6 Credit by Examination. Students come to Texas A&M University with a variety of educational experiences and backgrounds. In order to build upon this diversity, Texas A&M University encourages the use of Credit by Examination (CBE) opportunities to place students in the most advanced course for which they are prepared.

8.7 General Rules for Pursuing Credit by Examination

8.7.1 Admitted and/or officially enrolled students are eligible to pursue CBE.

8.7.2 CBE will be offered routinely for many courses during the school year as indicated by a test schedule available through the Office of Measurement and Research Services (MARS). It is the student’s responsibility to check and comply with this schedule.

8.7.3 There is no limit to the number of hours that may be earned through the CBE program. Credit earned through the CBE program, however, does not apply toward meeting university residence requirements.

8.7.4 All CBE credit is awarded without grade and is not included in the calculation of grade point ratios.

8.7.5 Credit earned by examination will not jeopardize eligibility for scholarships that require freshman standing.

8.7.6 A student may not have credit posted for credit by examination for courses in which he or she is currently registered or has acquired a grade other than Q or W or NG.

8.7.7 Students may not receive credit by examination for courses that are prerequisites to courses for which they already have credit except with the approval of the department authorizing the exam.

8.7.8 Credit earned via credit by examination will be replaced in a student’s academic record when a passing grade is earned in the corresponding course. Credit earned via credit by examination, however, will not be forfeited as a result of aborted course attempts.

8.7.9 Test scores and/or credit eligibility must be reported formally to Measurement and Research Services (MARS) for credit by examination to be awarded. Credit is posted to the academic record once appropriate scores are received by MARS and the student has officially enrolled in the university.

8.7.10 Only Texas A&M University administrations of appropriate tests or official score reports from an approved testing agency are acceptable for credit, e.g., official reports from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) are required for the College Board SAT II Subject Tests, the Advanced Placement Program and the College Level Examination Program (CLEP). Informal score reports or results of special administrations of national tests from other institutions are not accepted for credit.

8.7.11 Students can delete credit by examination at any point prior to graduation.

8.7.12 Officially enrolled students who believe they are proficient in the material of an undergraduate course may request that the offering department provide an appropriate opportunity for credit by examination. Department approval is required before an exam for a given course will be offered.

8.7.13 Credit by Examination requires a student fee that will be used to support such activities as test administration, preparation/selection of exams, scoring, analysis and reporting. Measurement and Research Services or academic departments may collect these fees.
RULE WITH PROPOSED CHANGES:

8.4 Rule Removed
8.5 Rule Removed

8.6 Credit by Examination. Students come to Texas A&M University with a variety of educational experiences and backgrounds. In order to build upon this diversity, Texas A&M University encourages the use of Credit by Examination (CBE) opportunities to place students in the most advanced course for which they are prepared.

8.7.4 General Rules for Pursuing Credit by Examination

8.7.4.1 Admitted and/or officially enrolled students are eligible to pursue CBE. Credit cannot be awarded until the student is officially enrolled at Texas A&M University.

8.7.4.2 CBE will be offered routinely for many courses during the school year as indicated by a test schedule available through the Office of Measurement and Research Services (MARS). It is the student’s responsibility to check and comply with this schedule.

8.7.4.3 Test scores and/or credit eligibility must be reported formally to Measurement and Research Services (MARS) for credit by examination to be awarded. Credit is posted to the academic record once appropriate scores are received by MARS and the student has officially enrolled in the university. A student may claim CBE credits at any point during his or her undergraduate program. Once claimed, credit cannot be declined. The student must complete a form at Measurement and Research Services to claim CBE credits. This provision is effective for those enrolled under the 2009 catalog forward.

8.7.4.4 A student may not have credit posted for credit by examination for courses in which he or she is currently registered or has acquired a grade at Texas A&M other than Q or W or NG.

8.7.4.5 All CBE credit is awarded without grade and is not included in the calculation of grade point ratios.

8.7.4.5 Credit earned via credit by examination will be replaced in a student’s academic record when a passing grade is earned in the corresponding course. Credit earned via credit by examination, however, will not be forfeited as a result of aborted course attempts. A student who is enrolled in a course past the Q-drop deadline will lose any CBE credit previously claimed for that course, regardless of the outcome of the course.

8.4.6 First year grade exclusion does not restore eligibility for credit by examination.

8.4.7 All CBE credit is awarded without grade and is not included in the calculation of grade point ratios.

8.7.4.8 There is not a limit to the number of hours that may be earned through the CBE program. Credit earned through the CBE program, however, does not apply toward meeting university residence requirements. Credit by examination that does not apply towards a student’s degree plan may make him or her ineligible for a tuition rebate. Contact the Office of the Registrar for details.

8.7.4 All CBE credit is awarded without grade and is not included in the calculation of grade point ratios.

8.7.4.9 Credit earned by examination will not jeopardize eligibility for scholarships that require freshman standing.

8.7.6 A student may not have credit posted for credit by examination for courses in which he or she is currently registered or has acquired a grade other than Q or W or NG.

8.7.24.10 Students may not receive credit by examination for courses that are prerequisites to courses for which they already have credit except with the approval of the department authorizing the exam.
8.7.8 Credit earned via credit by examination will be replaced in a student’s academic record when a passing grade is earned in the corresponding course. Credit earned via credit by examination, however, will not be forfeited as a result of aborted course attempts.

8.7.9 Test scores and/or credit eligibility must be reported formally to Measurement and Research Services (MARS) for credit by examination to be awarded. Credit is posted to the academic record once appropriate scores are received by MARS and the student has officially enrolled in the university.

8.7.11 Students can delete credit by examination at any point prior to graduation.

8.4.12 Officially enrolled students who believe they are proficient in the material of an undergraduate course may request that the offering department provide an appropriate opportunity for credit by examination. Department approval is required before an exam for a given course will be offered. Once completed, the department must notify Measurement and Research Services regarding the credit earned.

8.4.13 Credit by Examination requires a student fee that will be used to support such activities as test administration, preparation/selection of exams, scoring, analysis and reporting. Measurement and Research Services or academic departments may collect these fees.

**JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CHANGE:**

8.4-8.6 Eliminating removed rules and preface.

8.4.1 Clarifies that credit can only be awarded after an official transcript has been created by enrolling in course work.

8.4.3 This is the major change in the rules. Under this change, students will not be able to drop CBE credit once they have accepted it. This also means that credit will no longer be awarded automatically.

8.4.4 “at Texas A&M” added to clarify that attempts on courses at other institutions do not affect eligibility for CBE at Texas A&M.

8.4.5 Clarification of the rule.

8.4.6 Explicit statement of FYGE rules for CBE.

8.4.8 This was added to alert students to a possible consequence of accepting credit they might not need. At the present, students with excess credit due to CBE can drop that credit just before graduation.

8.7.4 Moved to 8.4.7

8.7.6 Moved to 8.4.4

8.7.8 Moved to 8.4.6 and clarified.
8.7.9 Moved to 8.4.3 and modified substantially.

8.7.11 Deleted. This is the major change proposed.

8.7.12 Clarification of procedures added.

**COMMENTS:**

- Rule change will take effect immediately upon approval from President.
- Approved by the Student Rules and Regulations Committee on 5/22/2009.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

David Martin, Measurement and Research Services

Don Carter, Office of the Registrar