



MEMORANDUM

TO: Mitch Berbrier, President, Faculty Senate

FROM: Robert A. Altenkirch, Interim Provost and President

DATE: August 28, 2013

RE: Senate Resolution 12/13-03: Restoration of UAH-GER Integrity Rule

The subject Senate Resolution essentially proposes to reverse Senate Resolution 0809-03: 64 Hours Policy, which addresses the number and timing of transferring hours from a community college to UAH. Prior to fall 2010, the policy in place addressing transferring hours from a 2-yr institution read:

"Once a student has enrolled at UAH and has accumulated a total of 64 semester hours of credit from all sources, no additional credit may be transferred to UAH from a two-year institution."

Senate Resolution 0809-03: 64 Hours Policy, accepted by the Administration, replaced the 2-yr transfer policy effective in fall 2010 with:

"A maximum of 64 semester hours of credit from a junior, community or two-year college may be transferred to UAH and applied toward a degree program."

The fall 2010 policy was to be in effect for a one-year trial basis. Following that year, the decision was made to continue with the policy reflected in the language of Senate Resolution 0809-03: 64 Hours Policy, and that policy language has continued to date.

At the Senate meeting on July 17, 2013, I summarized data regarding transfer credits applied toward graduating classes in spring 2009 and 2010, prior to the change in the transfer policy, and spring 2011 and 2012, after the change in the transfer policy (see <http://www.uah.edu/president/presentations>). A random sample of approximately 25% of each graduating class was used in the analysis. The results are:

	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
% of graduating seniors with some transfer credit	78.5	80.1	81.1	81.9
% of students with credit transferred after initial UAH enrollment	32	37.5	33.8	30.6
% of student with 2-year credit applied to final degree	72.6	71.2	79.4	74.3
% of students with 4-year credit applied to final degree	49.3	56.3	39.5	57.7

% of students who used all credit transferred to fulfill degree requirements	44	41.9	42.7	41.8
# of exceptions to 64-hour rule	0	1	2	1
Avg. # of transfer hours applied to final degree	38	38	42	37

Because there is no discernible difference between the two spring graduating classes prior to and after the change in the transfer policy, one would have to conclude that the policy change has had no effect on the number of transfer hours used toward graduation. Additionally, data from 2006 to 2012 show that the graduation rate of transfer students, who transfer in as sophomores, juniors, or seniors is arguably better than that of first-time-full-time freshmen (FTFTF); it is certainly not worse. The graduation rate of students who transfer in as freshmen is worse than that of FTFTF. Transferring in a "large" number of hours does not seem to place the student at a disadvantage as compared to the FTFTF student, which may indicate preparation in the courses transferred is adequate preparation for UAH.

Policies regarding transfer of credit from two-year institutions from The University of Alabama, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Auburn University are:

UA: "A minimum of 50 percent of the coursework required to earn a baccalaureate degree at The University of Alabama must be earned at a baccalaureate degree granting institution, and a minimum of 25 percent of the coursework required for the degree must be earned at The University of Alabama. Students should contact their college of enrollment for the specific number of hours required for their degree."

UAB: "If you're transferring from an accredited two-year college, you'll be able to transfer up to half the required credit hours toward your degree from UAB. If you're transferring from an accredited four-year institution, you'll be able to transfer an unlimited number of credits."

Auburn: "The maximum credit allowed will be equivalent to one-half of the student's curriculum at Auburn but not to exceed 96 quarter hours or 64 semester hours. A minimum of 25% of the total semester hours required for the baccalaureate degree must be earned in residence at Auburn University. A minimum of 50% of the course work in the major must be earned in residence at Auburn University."

The above three policies are essentially the same as the current UAH transfer policy in that there is no restriction as to when courses transferred from a two-year college are taken, prior to or after enrollment at the institution.

Taking into account that:

1. The current transfer policy seems to have had no effect on how many transfer hours students use toward graduation, and;

2. Other Alabama institutions with whom we generally identify essentially follow the same transfer policy as is in place at UAH, and;
3. The prior transfer policy, which places a restriction on credits from a two-year institution that can be transferred to UAH, may be an obstacle to enrollment.

The current transfer policy seems appropriate and consistent with other four-year institutions with whom we identify.

As a result, the Senate resolution to revert to the transfer policy as it affects two-year colleges in place prior to the fall of 2010 is not supported.

C: Brent Wren, Associate Provost
 Janet Waller, Registrar