



MEMO TO: Brian Puaca, Chair of the Academic Status Committee  
Rebecca Wheeler, President of the Faculty Senate  
FROM: Kelly Cartwright, Associate Provost for Academic Services  
DATE: April 29, 2009  
SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to Second Chance Program

The Second Chance Program was implemented to support students who return to CNU after Academic Suspension. However, our current Second Chance Program does not support these at risk students continuously until they achieve good academic standing. The current Second Chance Program requires students to sign initial Second Chance Contracts with the Academic Advising Center, which must be renewed each semester that the student wishes to remain at the University, until the student reaches the “probation range” indicated in the Table of Continuance on page 39 in the 2008-2009 *Undergraduate Catalog*. Thus, for example, under the current policy, freshmen who return after suspension would remain under their Second Chance contracts until they reach a cumulative GPA of 1.61. This policy is problematic for reasons articulated below, and the Provost is supportive of the following proposed solutions. If you have any substantive concerns or suggestions regarding these changes, please let me know by the close of business on Wednesday, May 6.

- Language in the *Undergraduate Catalog* regarding the Second Chance Program implies that students’ protection from dismissal will remain in effect after the initial contract is signed, indicating that semester-by-semester renewal is not necessary and creating confusion for students. **It is proposed that students’ initial Second Chance contract provide blanket protection for students (and not require semester-by-semester renewal, consistent with the *Undergraduate Catalog* language),** provided students meet requirements of their improvement plans, which will be monitored by the Academic Advising Center (as is current practice).
- Students enrolled in the Second Chance Program are at significant academic risk, and present different academic circumstances than students who find themselves on probation without suspension. However, the current Second Chance Program does not protect these students until they reach good academic standing. Rather, it only protects them until they reach the “probation range” defined in the Table of Continuance in the *Undergraduate Catalog*. Thus, these students are at risk of “falling through the cracks” and leaving the University, because the current program does not permit monitoring of these students until they demonstrate academic success. **Therefore, it is proposed that the Second Chance Program be amended so that students remain under contract, and protected from dismissal, until they reach Good Academic Standing (not “probation range”), provided that they comply with their second chance contract each semester, attain a minimum 2.5 term GPA each semester, and reach academic good standing (2.0 cumulative GPA) in no more than 4 semesters.**