

# THREE WEEK TERM OVERLOAD POLICY REVISION

## UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC STATUS COMMITTEE

C. KENNEDY, CHAIR

### 1. PROPOSED CHANGE

In academic year 2010-2011, the summer terms were reconfigured, and as a part of the reconfiguration, a three week Extended Spring Term (soon to be renamed) was created. Under current policy, students with a 3.00 GPA or higher are permitted to take up to six credits in a single summer session without petitioning the Academic Status Committee (ASC). It is the feeling of the ASC that due to the intense nature of the three week term, this policy is no longer appropriate. After consulting with Lisa Duncan Raines, Nicole Guajardo, and Brian Bradie the ASC recommends the following policy starting academic year 2011-2012.

- (1) Students be limited to only four credits in the three week term (regardless of grade point average);
- (2) Students be limited to six credits in all remaining summer sessions;
- (3) The Registrar may approve overloads in the four and five week sessions for any student with a GPA of 3.0 or higher;
- (4) All overload requests for the 3 week session will require petitioning ASC.

### 2. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

The Committee's primary concern is the time requirement should a student enroll in six credits (or more) during the three week session. Assuming three contact hours per day and the usual requirement of two hours outside of class per contact hour, a student enrolled in six credit hours would be in class for thirty hours and devote another sixty hours outside of class every week. In other words, a student would have to average close over eight and a half hours outside of class assuming a seven day work week. Such a work level would not be sustainable. Along with the time requirement is an accompanying host of smaller concerns – potential damage to a student's GPA, impact on retention, backlash on advisors who allow a student to take six credits – to name a few. Moreover, the Committee could not see any general reason to allow students to take such an intense load. While specific cases and reasons may exist, these can be addressed through the petition procedure.

Therefore, the Committee feels that four credits (a three credit class plus an accompanying lab) should be the general limit, and all students who wish to enroll in more than that in the three week term must petition the Committee, regardless of grade point average.

### 3. SCHEDULED REVIEW

If the Committee's recommendation is adopted, the Committee will review the policy in two years, after the Extended Spring Term 2013. By this time, the Committee should have a better idea of which students want to enroll in more than four credits, for what reasons, and likelihood of success. At that time, ASC can recommend adjustments to the policy as necessary.