

Academic Standards Council Annual Report for 2008-09

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The Academic Standards Council for the 2008-09 school year recommended a number of changes to the Student and Faculty/Staff Handbooks, the Undergraduate Catalogue, and to ISU admissions policies. These are summarized below:

Scholastic Appeals Board

After several potentially problematic procedural issues arose during the evaluation of a Scholastic Appeal, it was decided that a subcommittee would be formed to rewrite the protocol for naming and conducting a Scholastic Appeals Board. The new protocol can be found in both the Student and Faculty/Staff Handbooks. Briefly, language was added to make the document more clear and logical. Further, in order to ensure better ASISU participation, the protocol now names the ASISU Vice President as Vice Chair of the board. Overall these changes, which were passed unanimously by the Academic Standards Council and by Faculty Senate, will improve student participation and provide clear guidelines for a more efficient running of the board.

Academic Dishonesty Board

The same subcommittee that worked on the Scholastic Appeals Board protocol also rewrote the protocol for naming and conducting an Academic Dishonesty Board. This was done to make the protocol consistent with that of the Scholastic Appeals Board. The language of the document is now more logical, clear, and direct. As with the Scholastic Appeals Board, the composition of the Academic Dishonesty Board was changed to include the Vice President of ASISU in order to ensure better ASISU participation. The changes proposed were passed unanimously by the Academic Standards Council and the Faculty Senate at the same time as the changes to the Scholastic Appeals Board.

ISU Scholastic Dismissal Policy

The ISU Scholastic Dismissal Policy was discussed at length and revised. The proposed revisions were approved by the ASC and sent to the Faculty Senate, which also approved the changes. Briefly, while it was agreed that ISU has a good probation, dismissal, and readmission policy in place, it had not been followed consistently in the past. In order to assure better compliance with the policies, changes to verbiage that was not easy to understand and adhere to were made. Further, a loophole whereby a student subject to Academic Dismissal could attend school during the summer semester was closed. Finally, in the printed undergraduate catalog under the section entitled "Probation & Dismissal Policy", the subheading "Scholastic Probation" was changed to "Academic Probation" to more clearly distinguish the subject discussed in that section.

Admissions Requirements

ISU's admissions criteria were evaluated by an ASC subcommittee. The subcommittee recommended a number of changes to undergraduate admissions requirements. These were passed by the Academic Standards Council and forwarded to the Faculty Senate. The new requirements, which are for domestic academic students with fewer than 14 baccalaureate-level credits from another college or university, include:

Assured admission (HS Graduate)

- 2.5 or better cumulative GPA + Idaho high school core requirements

- Math score of at least 18 on the ACT or 430 on the SAT
- English score of at least 18 on the ACT or 450 on the SAT
- If a student is missing up to two core classes, but meets the above criteria, he/she will be granted automatic **provisional admission**

Assured admission (Home School)

- Composite score of 21 on the ACT or 1500 on the SAT
- Math score of at least 18 on the ACT or 430 on the SAT
- English score of at least 18 on the ACT or 450 on the SAT

Conditional admission (HS Graduate)

- 2.25 or better cumulative GPA + Idaho high school core requirements
- Math score of at least 12 on the ACT or 250 on the SAT
- English score of at least 12 on the ACT or 330 on the SAT
- If a student is missing up to two core classes, but meets the above criteria, he/she will be granted automatic **conditional admission**

Conditional admission (Home School)

- Composite score of at least 20 on the ACT or 1410 on the SAT
- Math score of at least 12 on the ACT or 250 on the ACT
- English score of at least 18 on the ACT or 450 on the SAT

Petition

- Any student who does not meet the above criteria will be required to petition for admission.

Resident Credit/Alternative Credit Policy and Statement

The ASC recommended changes to the language of the Resident Credit policy, which was outlined in the Undergraduate Catalog on page 35. Briefly, it was recommended that for Resident Credits:

- Of the last 24 credits applied to an Associate’s degree, 16 must be Resident Credits. Resident Credits were defined as credits from ISU courses, plus program-sponsored credits from non-ISU courses completed in conjunction with ISU Outreach Education Centers.
- Of the last 50 credits applied to a Bachelor’s degree, 32 must be Resident Credits
- At least 16 upper division credits for a major must be Resident Credits
- At least 6 credits required for a minor must be Resident Credits

In addition to the changes recommended for the Resident Credit Policy, the ASC approved an extensive rewrite of the undergraduate description of alternative credit opportunities. The resultant revisions, which were approved by the ASC, can be found on pages 44-53 of the Undergraduate Catalog, starting from the “Credits for Prior Learning” section through the “Division of Continuing Education” section. While ISU students can earn alternative undergraduate credit through a variety of means (see Undergraduate Catalogue pg. 35 for a list), it was recommended that a maximum of 32 credit hours can be granted towards an associate degree by using any combination of these means, whereas a maximum of 64 credits can be granted towards a bachelor’s degree.

Associate Degrees

The issue of how many credits are needed for an Associate Degree was brought before the Council. After discussion, it was recommended that ISU follow the standards set out by the State Board of Education regarding these degrees.

Banner Implementation

The Registrar brought several issues to the Council regarding Banner implementation. Several motions were passed, including ones to have Banner require prerequisite and co-requisite checking. Additionally, a motion to implement 'wait-listing', first using the prerequisite checking, then class level, was passed. This included the provision that department chairs would decide which courses were to be wait-listed.

Accepted by Faculty Senate: December 14, 2009