I. The Registrar’s Office and the Graduate School have been asked this semester by two different departments to help them put together undergraduate programs that lead directly into graduate programs while minimizing the time to completion for both programs. For students to complete these programs in the shortest time possible, it would be ideal for some coursework at one level to fulfill program requirements at both levels. ISU currently does not have policies that address this practice.

The ISU Graduate Catalog states, “Seniors in residence at Idaho State University, with permission of the Graduate School, may register for up to 6 graduate credits during the semester or summer session in which they will complete the bachelor’s degree at Idaho State University.” In practice, the details of the process can be complicated and confusing given the differences in tuition and fee costs of undergrad and grad classes, Pell grant eligibility differences, and variation in practices.

Chris Hunt provided handouts of “accelerated Master’s degree” policies at other universities for review and discussion next meeting. He also provided the committee a handout to show visual representation of options.

Current accelerated options at ISU (not exhaustive list):
- MBA program
- (3 + 2)
- BA History to an MA in History
- Associates to BSN to Master’s in Nursing
- Nuclear Engineering
An MOU with other schools (BYUI) and ISU Grad School has been created for individual requests (no policy has been established).

Possible components of the policy
- Minimum grade of a B
- Max credit - up to 9 cr. or based on total grad credits (a percentage)
- Not all programs could do a 3+2
- Not for everybody (Need an application that is internal to the department).
- Can use 5000 level courses but not 6000

Questions and discussion included:
- Number of graduate credits that can be taken as an undergraduate
- Undergraduate credit cannot be used for graduate credit
- Can grad courses taken as an undergrad also be counted for graduate requirements
- Are there accreditation concerns
- What are the faculty philosophies regarding this practice "double-dipping" to shorten the time to degree
- Is there an issue regarding quality of “compressed programs”
- Specific graduate courses only; not just any course would be suitable
- Develop a “exit plan” for students to bet BS if they don’t pursue MS - clearly defined plan
- For how long are graduate credits eligible to be used for a grad program

When a rule/policy is established, it should be applied across the board.
- It will be the colleges purview as to whether or not to offer the option
- Boundaries of the policy will be established by the university
- Allow exceptions to policy (Exercise Science to an MS in Athletic Training 57 credits)

Tracy Collum, Chris Hunt, and Steven Marsh will develop a draft of items to consider
- What is the time frame to implement - is Fall 2020 realistic? Probably 2021.

II. Vice Chair - Dr. Curtis Whitaker was elected as the Vice-Chair.
    Michael Foley motioned; John Fitzpatrick seconded

III. Academic Renewal Policy - pended until next meeting for information from Registrar regarding suggested two year time frame for layout before eligible

IV. Removing grade points from ISU GPA calculation when a course previously taken at ISU is transferred in from another college.
    A. Dr. John Fitzpatrick motioned and Amy Koplin seconded. A vote was taken and all present voted to not allow the removal of grade points from a course taken elsewhere.

Jeff Meldrum motioned to adjourn; Amy Koplin seconded. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM

See below:

GRADE and CREDIT EXCLUSION POLICY (draft for Academic Standards consideration).

This policy allows undergraduate students to request one or more consecutive semesters of coursework be disregarded in the calculation of total credits earned and cumulative GPA.

All grades, past and present, will remain on the transcript, but the excluded grades will not count toward graduation or be calculated into the cumulative GPA. To apply, a student must file a petition for Grade and Credit Exclusion with the dean of his/her college. Eligibility for the program will be subject to the following conditions:

- A minimum of two (2) years will have elapsed since last enrollment at ISU or at least 5 (five) years must have elapsed since the grades were received.

- Applicant must have at least one semester in which the term GPA is less than a 2.0.

- This policy does not apply to excluding individual courses within a semester.

- Grade and Credit exclusion may be awarded one time only.

- Grade and Credit exclusion shall not apply to any credits earned for a completed, prior academic degree.

- Before the petition may be filed, the student must have completed an additional 12 GPA eligible credit hours of course work at Idaho State University with a minimum grade point average of 2.5 or at least 24 GPA eligible credit hours of course work with a minimum grade point average of 2.00.

- The student cannot exclude any grades received prior to receiving a post-secondary degree or certificate. (Exception: If the student has courses that were ineligible for use toward a particular post-secondary degree or certificate, grades earned in those courses may be excluded if other criteria listed above are met. Documentation should come from other institution.)
An “S grade” in Math 0090 transcripted at ISU may be considered towards credit minimum listed above. Upon approval of the petition, the student’s permanent official academic record will be suitably annotated to indicate that no work taken during the disregarded term(s) may apply toward the computation of credits and grade points, academic standing, and graduation requirements. However, all work will remain on the records, ensuring an accurate academic history.

Students should be aware that this policy MIGHT NOT BE RECOGNIZED at transfer institutions or within individual ISU departments. Grade and Credit Exclusion granted elsewhere is not transferable to Idaho State University.

[WU1] Check with your department and come back to this?

[WU2]

Minutes approved on December 17, 2019