Date: November 9, 2016

To: Dr. Robert Hooper, Chair
    Academic Policies Committee

Fr: Dr. Mary Hoffman
    Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Curriculum

Re: Recommended changes to the policy on academic suspension

The Associate Deans Committee, comprised of Associate Deans and Associate Directors from both Academic and Student Affairs, recommends the following change (underlined in red) to the catalog regarding academic suspensions.

From the UW-Eau Claire catalog: http://catalog.uwec.edu/undergraduate/academic-policies-regulations/academic-standing-forgiveness/

Changes in red below.

Suspension. A student will be suspended from the University under either or both of the following conditions:

1. At the end of a semester of probation, the student has failed to regain good academic standing.
2. At the end of any semester, the student has a semester GPA of less than 1.00. (This regulation applies regardless of the student’s resident GPA.)

A student who has been suspended is ineligible to continue in the University for a specified period of time. A first suspension is for the period of one semester. Any degree-seeking student who wishes to return to the University after the expiration of the suspension must make formal application for readmittance through the Admissions Office. Special Students who wish to return to the University after the expiration of a suspension may register through Blugold Central. Readmittance cannot be guaranteed. If the student is readmitted and fails to regain good academic standing by the end of the first semester after readmittance, a second suspension of one semester will be incurred. The second suspension is for a period of one year.

A student who has been suspended for academic reasons may request a review by a faculty committee of the College in which the student was enrolled. If the student can show that extenuating circumstances existed, the committee may recommend to the Associate Dean of the College that the student be reinstated.

Students on suspension may attend the UW-Eau Claire Winterim and Summer Sessions (including the Three-Week Summer Session) for the purpose of improving their academic records and may request an appeal of the suspension from the Associate Dean of the College at
the conclusion of the session. A suspended student may not enroll as a special student at UW-Eau Claire during the fall or spring semesters until the suspension has expired. A student suspended from UW-Eau Claire may encounter difficulty in attempting to enroll at another institution.

Rationale for the change:
Suspensions of longer than a semester may discourage students from returning to UW-Eau Claire to complete their degrees, and may delay graduation longer than necessary for students who may not benefit from a full year away. Associate deans will continue to have the option to decline readmission to students not believed to be ready to successfully return to UW-Eau Claire following a single semester suspension. Although associate deans can currently shorten second suspensions upon appeal, a standard single semester suspension on second and subsequent offenses is more equitable to students and families who may not realize that they have the option to advocate for themselves.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have regarding this recommendation. A member of the associate deans group will be available to answer questions when APC formally considers this change.