University Senate Committee: Academic Policies

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

This proposal came to the Academic Policies Committee from the Associate Deans group and concerns eligibility for the awarding of academic distinction (cum laude=3.20, magna cum laude=3.50, and summa cum laude=3.80) to students who have earned a second Bachelor’s degree at UW-Eau Claire. Students typically pursue a second degree because they wish to enter a new career such as nursing or teaching or need additional education for graduate study.

According to the University Catalogue, page 48, requirements for the second Bachelor’s degree are as follows: at least 30 credits beyond the first Bachelor’s degree, 23 of which must be taken in residence; completion of all major/minor and other degree-specific requirements for the second degree; and completion of the cultural diversity requirement. “It is presumed that all candidates for the second baccalaureate degree have met the following University graduation requirements: English competency, mathematics/statistics competency, foreign language/foreign culture, general education, physical activity and wellness, and service-learning” (University Catalogue, p. 48).

Currently academic distinction for second degree students is determined on the basis of the total credits the student has earned for both the first and the second Bachelor’s degrees as indicated by the note in the University Catalogue on page 48 of the 2010/11 University Catalogue: “Note: For second degree students, GPAs from both the first and second degrees will be included in the computation.”

Since students pursuing the second Bachelor’s degree typically complete 60 credits or more, the Associate Deans’ group has recommended that eligibility for academic distinction be calculated only on the credits earned for the second Bachelor’s degree.

Points Discussed by Committee:

Students seeking the second Bachelor’s degree typically earn 60 credits or more. Their work for the second degree is much better than that for the first degree. The second degree represents a “fresh start” for students and conferral of academic distinction for their work toward the second degree would recognize the high quality of their work.

Pros of Recommendation:

Please see the above points. UW-Eau Claire is one of few universities not conferring academic distinction for outstanding academic performance for the second Bachelor’s degree.

Cons of Recommendation:

Although academic performance of students seeking the second degree may be excellent, the number of credits completed is likely to be considerably less than 120.
Technology/Human Resource Impact:

Minimal: deletion of the note from the *Catalogue*.

Committee Recommendation:

That the note restricting second degree seeking students’ eligibility for academic distinction be deleted from the *University Catalogue*.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of ___6___ for to ___1___ against on ___October 19, 2010___ (Date)

Recommends that

The University Senate approve the deletion of “Note: For second degree students, GPAs from both the first and second degrees will be included in the computation.” from the *University Catalogue*.

Implementation Date: Upon publication of the 2011/12 *University Catalogue*

Signed: ___Barbara Lozar__________________

Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office