REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue—why the issue is being considered:
Students for whom English is a second language already demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language (English). Requiring an additional foreign language places an admittance barrier on these students.

Points Discussed by Committee
1. Rationale: By way of admission to this program, the students have been identified as needing assistance with English skills. We don’t need the second language barrier placed on them as they are learning a second language – English.

2. Rationale for the proposal:
   a. If a student is admitted into College Achievement Program (CAP), the foreign language requirement for admission can be waived.
   b. If a student comes to the US in elementary, middle school or high school and English is their second language and is not spoken in the home we waive the requirement for admission. If we cannot tell from their application, we will get verification.
   c. If English is their second language and English is also spoken in the home, we can provide a test for them to demonstrate native language competency on a case by case basis. (A professor of Spanish or Hmong will provide a 101 final exam used to assess competency met for admission.)

3. Only UW-Madison and UWEC require foreign language as an admissions requirement.

4. If it is unclear if English is spoken in the home, Admissions will get verification. Carter Smith and Charles Vue will use SPAN 101 and Hmong 101 exam to assess language proficiency. Admissions will coordinate the proctoring of the exam in the student’s hometown and Vue and Smith will assess results to determine if the admissions foreign language requirement will be waived.

Pros of Recommendation: Would help otherwise qualified students be admitted to the university.

Cons of Recommendation: None

Technology/Human Resource Impact: None

Committee Recommendation:

Revise the Undergraduate Catalog (page 9) text and Admissions Publications/website regarding foreign language admission requirement to read as follows:

Foreign Language** (in a single foreign language) 2
TOTAL 17***

*In almost all high school curricula, algebra II or higher/advanced algebra is the third college preparatory mathematics course required.

**Exceptions to the foreign language requirement for admission may be made for students whose first language is not English.

***Students who begin taking high school course work prior to high school (e.g. mathematics, foreign language) must still present a total of 15 academic credits (English, mathematics, natural science, social science, and foreign language) in grades 9-12.
MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The Academic Policies Committee,

by a vote of _6_ in favor and _0_ against and _1_ abstention on October 14, 2014

recommends that the Undergraduate Catalog (page 9) and the Admissions Publications/website revise the text regarding foreign language admission requirement to read as follows:

Foreign Language** (in a single foreign language)  2  
TOTAL  17***

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Implementation Date: 2015-2016 Catalog

Signed: ______Jean A. Pratt_____
        Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office