

The Barron County campus academic advisor, department chair, and academic actions committee chairs ask APC to consider revisions to the academic standing policy regarding suspension, academic warning, and probation to accommodate the following two concerns at the Barron County campus:

1. The policy of suspending students, at the end of any semester when a student has a semester GPA of less than 1.00.

The suspension policy to be implemented next year would likely result in increasing suspensions on the Barron campus by 3 or 4 fold.

For example, following fall 2018 semester, still operating under our previous policy, we had 11 students facing suspension, but under the new policy, this would have increased to 36. This would represent well over 10% of our entire student body, or around a quarter of our entire new freshmen class. (Not all of those 36 would be freshmen — I just want to give some perspective of how these numbers would relate to our overall enrollment).

Similarly, for Fall 2017, with the new policy on academic standing, we would have suspended 45 students, as opposed to 11 under the previous UW Colleges policy.

Thus, in proportion to our enrollment, implementing the academic standing policy on suspension will have substantial effect on the campus, and the policy could be counter-productive to Barron's open access mission and goal of retaining all students regardless of their diversity in academic preparation for college work.

2. Policies regarding students moving off of probation into good academic standing by recovering their cumulative or resident GPA may prove much more of a burden for Barron campus students.

The most direct path for students to recover their overall GPA after a highly unsuccessful semester is through retaking failed classes to replace those grades with more successful marks.

At a small campus such as Barron, except for core requirements, most courses are repeated on a 4 semester rotation, which would exclude students on probation from retaking classes to repair their cumulative GPA within the time required to avoid suspension.

A sub-committee of the Barron campus Academic Actions standing committee will forward to APC recommendations for specific revisions to language in the academic standing policy by noon on Monday March 4.