

Date: November 20, 2022

To: Academic Policies Committee

From: Mary Hoffman, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

RE: Extension of first-year student suspension pilot

On December 7, 2021 academic affairs informed APC that UW-Eau Claire would run a pilot program to not automatically suspend first-time students with a first semester GPA under 1.0. Instead, these students would be placed on probation. Academic Skills Center created additional sections of GEN 201: Student Success Seminar to accommodate these students. Although, the data is complex, and far from conclusive, 58% of students in last spring's pilot group were retained to this fall, 4% higher than the previous year and higher than any of the last seven years we looked at.

In collaboration with the associate deans, academic affairs is developing a revised academic standing policy with the intention of presenting it to APC for consideration early in spring semester 2023. Because this policy is so important, because there are some many variables involved in student success, and because we weren't able to access first to second year retention data until late September, we were unable to complete the new proposal in time for implementation this fall. Thus, we intend to extend the pilot change to the academic standing policy for first-time students with a first semester GPA below 1.0 to include those completing their first semester during fall 2022. Rather than be automatically suspended, these students will be placed on probation and provided with additional academic support. All other elements of the academic standing policy will remain in place.

Often students in this situation are readmitted after appeal, but the appeal process creates an additional barrier to students who would have eventually been restored for second semester anyway. Our goal is to eliminate that barrier and provide increased academic support to these students.

The proposal forthcoming in the spring will be accompanied by a plan to provide additional, coordinated academic support to students on warning and probation, as well as a plan to continue monitoring the impact of the policy on students. A group from across divisions is meeting on December 5 to discuss this support plan. Interested APC members are welcome to join if they wish by emailing [hoffmamf@uwec.edu](mailto:hoffmamf@uwec.edu).