



September 25, 2017

To: Maria Miriti, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs  
Randy Smith, Vice-Chair, Council on Academic Affairs  
Alan Loper, Chair, Council on Enrollment and Student Progress

From: Dick Dietrich, 2016-17 Interim Chair, Fiscal Committee

SUBJECT: Request for Guidance on Proposal to Revise Undergraduate Tuition Policy

During the 2016-17 academic year, Fiscal Committee considered a resolution by Undergraduate Student Government that “supports the adoption of policies and procedures that allow high-achieving undergraduate students to take up to 21 credit hours each semester without having to incur any additional fees”. (See Appendix A.) Current policy provides that undergraduate students pay incremental amounts when enrolled in more than 18 credit hours per semester. Appendix B provides information about the incidence of undergraduate students’ enrollment in more than 18 credit hours between Autumn 2009 and Spring 2017 and for the university’s tuition policy during that period.

Fiscal Committee discussed proposing a revision that contemplates permitting students who plan to enroll in courses totaling between 18 and 21 credit hours to petition to waive incremental tuition amounts under the following circumstances:

- (1) courses that provide credit for internships
- (2) courses that engage students in research
- (3) courses that permit students to graduate on-time, perhaps limited to rank 4 students

Petitions would be evaluated by academic advisors with, as yet, unspecified criteria for evaluation.

Fiscal Committee seeks guidance from Council on Academic Affairs and Council on Enrollment and Student Progress as it considers developing a proposed revision to the undergraduate tuition policy. Specifically, the Committee seeks guidance on the academic benefits that may obtain, any restrictions or conditions to grant a waiver, including but not limited to those enumerated in the previous paragraph, and procedures and criteria to evaluate student petitions.

To facilitate the Committee’s consideration, I request that your committee provide guidance on this topic prior to the end of Autumn semester if possible. The Committee also welcomes any suggestions that would facilitate a broader discussion of this issue. Thank you for considering this request.

c: Jim Cogdell, Chair, Fiscal Committee  
Kris Devine, Vice President for Operations and Deputy Chief Financial Officer  
Brad Harris, Assistant Provost and Chief Administrative Officer

**A Resolution to Support the Increase of the Maximum Credit Hours Undergraduate Students can Enroll In Without Additional Fees**

Zach Clark (for himself, Kimmy Sullivan, Michael Frank, Maria Vargo, Ryan Moore, and Mario Belfiglio) introduced the following resolution to the Steering Committee, where it passed.

\* \* \*

**Whereas** the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University, and

**Whereas** many high-achieving undergraduate students at The Ohio State University choose to pursue double majors, dual degrees, or major-minor combinations, and

**Whereas** choosing to pursue double majors, dual degrees, or major-minor combinations increases the number of credit hours required for graduation, and

**Whereas** the current undergraduate tuition rate allows undergraduate students to take up to 18 credit hours each semester without incurring any additional fees, and

**Whereas** Purdue University,<sup>1</sup> Penn State University,<sup>2</sup> The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign,<sup>3</sup> Rutgers University,<sup>4</sup> and the University of Southern California<sup>5</sup> have instituted policies that allow undergraduate students to petition to take over 18 credit hours per semester without having to pay any additional fees;

**Therefore Let it Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government at The Ohio State University supports the adoption of policies and procedures that allow high-achieving undergraduate students to take up to 21 credit hours each semester without having to incur any additional fees, and

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations\\_procedures/registration.htm](http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations_procedures/registration.htm) HYPERLINK  
"http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations\_procedures/registration.htm"

<sup>2</sup> <https://handbook.psu.edu/content/credit-and-credit-load>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.las.illinois.edu/students/courses/loadcredit/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://nblogistrar.rutgers.edu/undergrad/enrol-nb.htm#limits> HYPERLINK  
"http://nblogistrar.rutgers.edu/undergrad/enrol-nb.htm#limits"

<sup>5</sup> <https://ahf.usc.edu/awards/achievement/>

**Let it Further Be Resolved** that the Undergraduate Student Government recommends that the administration examine a wide range of requirements and research similar policies of peer institutions for best practices.

Floor Vote: Passed with Unanimous Consent

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Gerard Basalla

President

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Danielle Di Scala

Vice President

Date Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Terminated: \_\_\_\_\_

## Appendix B

In Autumn 2012, the university changed their tuition and fee assessment model for undergraduate students. Prior to Autumn 2012, students were not charged incrementally more for credit hours over 12. Beginning in Autumn 2012, students were not charged incrementally more for credit hours between 12 and 18. However, students pay an additional half credit hour instructional, general, and non-resident fee for each half credit hour of enrollment over 18 credit hours.

Enrollment patterns for Autumn 2009 through Spring 2017 were analyzed.

### **For Autumn 2009 – Spring 2012**

- The proportion of students on the Columbus campus taking more than 18 credit hours was between 14.0% and 21.4% during regular academic terms (non-summer). Approximately 8% of summer enrollees took more than 18 credit hours.
- The proportion of students on the regional campuses taking more than 18 credit hours was between 0.8% and 1.5% during regular academic terms. Approximately 0.6% of summer enrollees took more than 18 credit hours.

### **For Autumn 2012-Spring 2017**

- Between 0.6% and 1.2% of students on the Columbus campus took more than 18 credit hours during regular academic terms. Additionally, less than 0.1% took more than 18 credit hours in summer terms. During that same time frame, less than 0.1% of regional campus students took more than 18 credit hours during both regular academic terms and summer terms.
- Most students who took more than 18 credit hours were of junior or senior rank. Additionally, Arts & Sciences and Engineering students were generally the largest proportion of students who took more than 18 hours.
- Approximately 70% of the senior rank students who took more than 18 hours, either graduated in the term they took these hours or the following term that they were enrolled.
- Approximately 2% of baccalaureate degree recipients take more than 18 credit hours the term they graduate.

# A Proposal to the University Senate 2016-7

University Faculty Rule 3335-19-03 (B) (1) states the Steering Committee shall *receive through the university senate office proposals for senate action or other presentations to the senate from any committee of the senate, or university committee or council, or member of the senate, or any member of the university community.* This form, although not required, will expedite your proposal and may be sent to the Senate Secretary, Tim Gerber, at [gerber.4@osu.edu](mailto:gerber.4@osu.edu) with copies to the Steering Committee Chair at [lee.133@osu.edu](mailto:lee.133@osu.edu). Electronic submission in MS \*.docx format is preferred. Do not send graphical scans.

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Initiated by  Senate committee  University committee  Council  
\_check any  Senator  University community  Other  
that apply

Date | co- November 16, 2016 Zach Clark, Sam Whipple, Chris Delbridge, Michael  
Sponsor if Branum, Rachel Williams, Lauren Fechtel  
any

Proposal title **A Proposal to Raise the Enrollment Cap from 18 Credit Hours in Select Circumstances**

Issue addressed In recent years, both the Council on Academic Affairs and the Senate Fiscal Committee have discussed possible revisions to the 18 credit hour cap. Those conversations centered on time to degree, inability to flexibly accommodate student needs, and deterred enrollment in areas such as research credit and music ensembles. Drawing on similar observations, USG's General Assembly recently adopted a resolution supporting an increase in the full-time credit hour cap.<sup>1</sup>

Of the undergraduate students who miss four year graduation, some fall short by only one or two courses. Currently students can opt to take one or more semesters above 18 credit hours if they pay extra tuition charges. Additional credit hours cost \$397.50 each for an in-state student or \$1,115.50 each for a nonresident student.<sup>2</sup> Course fees may also apply.<sup>3</sup>

Many students cannot bear the high cost of additional credits. Even those who will fall one or two courses shy of 4-year graduation might opt to take an additional semester. Delayed graduation can be demoralizing and costly, and it postpones finding employment or pursuing further studies. Moreover, due to eligibility requirements, students must finance the extra semester with reduced assistance from scholarships and federal aid.

Raising the credit hour cap to 21 could allow high-achieving students to graduate in four years without additional cost. This would be particularly helpful to students who pursue multiple majors or dual degrees, as well as students who change their major and need additional credit hours.

When the 18 hour cap impairs timely graduation, the university also suffers because the 4-year graduation rate is a key benchmark for both prestige and state funding. Indeed, time to degree featured prominently in the statewide Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency in Higher Education.<sup>4</sup> Thus, improving the 4-year graduation rate would benefit students and the university alike.

This proposal would also provide greater flexibility to students who are taking 18 credit

hours of graded coursework but would like to add research or internship credit. While adding these hours incurs negligible costs for the university, students currently must pay steep fees for the additional credits. This might deter some students from pursuing such opportunities, while others opt to do the work without academic credit. In this area, as in time to degree, the 18-hour cap becomes a barrier.

The following peer institutions, each of which defines full-time enrollment as 12 credit hours and up, allow students to enroll past 18 credit hours without additional fees: Ohio University, Purdue University, Penn State University, The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Rutgers University, Northwestern University, University of Iowa, University of Maryland.

Proposal We propose that, in select circumstances, the university allow students to enroll in up to 21 credit hours at the same fixed tuition as those who take 12-18 credit hours. Enrollment in more than 18 credit hours would still require advisor approval. Additional restrictions relating to rank, academic performance, or demonstrated necessity could be added as committees see fit. We do not think it appropriate to fully specify such terms before committee discussion. Nonetheless, we hold in principle that students should have the option to enroll in additional credit hours without incurring higher tuition.

It is USG's understanding that the current cap at 18 credit hours was not a financial measure. Rather, it was intended for students' mental health and academic performance, as course loads above 18 hours are very demanding. Nonetheless, we believe that, with guidance from advisers, students can make sure that they are adequately prepared for the task. This proposal is not intended to make 21 credit hours the new norm. It should, however, be an option available to students who can demonstrate need.

We recommend that the Council on Academic Affairs, the Council on Enrollment and Student Progress, the Senate Fiscal Committee, and the Rules Committee review the current petitioning process for students to enroll past 18 credit hours and issue recommendations on a new 21 credit hour policy.

Budget & support This proposal will have financial impact because the university will lose current revenue from over-enrollment fees. As part of its review, we request that the Senate Fiscal Committee run a financial impact analysis and identify potential funding sources, if necessary.

Attachments, if any

1. [http://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc\\_9122016\\_94132717.pdf](http://usg.osu.edu/posts/documents/doc_9122016_94132717.pdf)
2. [http://registrar.osu.edu/FeeTables/Web\\_AU16\\_Fee\\_Table/FeeTables\\_AU16.pdf](http://registrar.osu.edu/FeeTables/Web_AU16_Fee_Table/FeeTables_AU16.pdf)
3. [http://registrar.osu.edu/FeeTables/Web\\_AU15\\_Fee\\_Table/au15\\_su16\\_course\\_fee.pdf](http://registrar.osu.edu/FeeTables/Web_AU15_Fee_Table/au15_su16_course_fee.pdf)
4. [https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/affordability-efficiency/Action-Steps-to-Reduce-College-Costs\\_100115.pdf](https://www.ohiohighered.org/sites/ohiohighered.org/files/uploads/affordability-efficiency/Action-Steps-to-Reduce-College-Costs_100115.pdf)

*The Faculty Leaders (Chair, Faculty Council; Chair Elect Faculty Council; Secretary of the Senate and Chair, Steering Committee) will review this proposal and forward it to the Steering Committee for disposition following the published proposal pathway. You may be invited to this or other committees or councils to discuss the idea. Proposals for the Fall semester may reach the senate in the current academic year, whereas those in the Spring semester may be deferred to the following academic year. Thank you for your proposal.*