Submitted To: Chairperson of the Shared Governance Oversight Committee (SGOC)

1. **Date:** February 11, 2019
2. **Sponsoring Constituent:** Undergraduate Enrollment and Academic Policies Committee

Sub-committee: Melissa Jackson, Toccara Carter, Sandra Combs, Jie Miao, Rene Moquin

1. **Statement of the Issue:** The subcommittee reviewed the current Undergraduate Academic Suspension Policy and submitted recommendations to minimize the mandatory suspension period and remove superfluous steps in the readmission process. Recommendations were carefully reviewed and amended by UEAPC before submitting to the Shared Governance Oversight Committee for consideration of policy change. The current Undergraduate Academic Standing Policy is listed below. Yellow indicates areas that were reviewed for changes.

CURRENT POLICY (Pages 54-55 in 2018-19 Undergraduate Bulletin):

**READMISSION FOLLOWING ACADEMIC SUSPENSION**

Upon academic suspension from A-State, students should contact the Wilson Advising Center to review the terms for admission following an academic suspension from the university. (870) 972- 3001. Students admitted to the university through Transition Studies, must successfully complete all program requirements. Failure to do so may result in suspension from the program. Students who are suspended from the Transition Studies Program must contact Transition Studies at 870-972-2080 to discuss readmission.

**Restart@state Program:** Students on a first academic suspension with the university, who have not participated in Restart@state and wish to return to A-State, must seek enrollment into Restart if they are returning to A-State within two calendar years. Students must first seek approval from the Wilson Advising Center in order to participate in Restart, then complete the application process and attend a Restart workshop before classes begin for the semester. Restart@state is a fall, spring and summer program option. Program fees do apply. The Restart Program fee is used for university retention initiatives.

During the Restart semester, students will be allowed to enroll in up to 12 hours plus the one-hour Restart Seminar. Students who withdraw from the university, are administratively withdrawn or fail the Restart Seminar will serve a mandatory separation period from the university and all other institutions of higher education the following semester. Successful completion of the Restart@state program requirements, however, will allow enrollment during the subsequent enrollment period, provided the student meets the necessary GPA and other requirements stated in the Restart contract.

**First Suspension:** Students who are suspended from the university for the first time must enroll in the Restart@state program. (See procedures for enrollment under the Restart@state Program.) All students considering taking coursework at another institution while on first suspension from A-State are strongly advised to meet with their A-State academic advisors for guidance on appropriate coursework selection. (See section on Transferring Work from Other Institutions while on First Suspension.)

**Second Suspension:** Students who earn a second suspension from the university are not permitted to enroll at A-State for one calendar year. Students returning to A-State after serving a second suspension must first seek approval to re-enroll from the Undergraduate Graduation and Academic Credits Appeals Committee. Upon approval for re-enrollment, students must readmit with the institution before registering for classes. Arkansas State University will not accept for transfer any credit earned at other institutions during a period in which the student is on mandatory second suspension at A-State.

**Third and Subsequent Suspensions:** Students who earn a third or subsequent suspension from the university are not permitted to enroll at A-State for two calendar years. Students returning to A-State after serving a third or subsequent suspension must first seek approval to re-enroll from the Undergraduate Graduation and Academic Credits Appeals Committee. Upon approval for re-enrollment, students must readmit with the institution before registering for classes.

Arkansas State University will not accept for transfer any credit earned at other institutions during a period in which the student is on mandatory third or subsequent suspension at A-State.

**Transferring Work from Other Institutions while on First Suspension:** A-State will review transfer work completed while on a first suspension only after the student returns and successfully completes 12 hours with a 2.00 GPA, as well as the Restart@state program (if required). No more than 12 credit hours of coursework completed at another accredited college or university while on a first academic suspension from A-State will be considered for transfer and only if the coursework:

1. removes deficiencies, such as the required high school core or developmental coursework; and/or

2. is a course retaken per the A-State recomputation policy (retaking course work that was earned at A-State with a grade below “C”); and/or

3. is designated by A-State as 1000- or 2000-level.

**No credit hours earned at other institutions during a period in which the student is on mandatory second, third, or subsequent suspension from A-State will be accepted for transfer by Arkansas State University.**

1. **Rational for Proposal:** After reviewing the policy and similar policies from other universities in Arkansas, the committee found that while A-State’s Undergraduate Academic Suspension Policy provides adequate academic support to assist students on a first academic suspension, it presents challenges for students hoping to return after second/third suspensions.

**Recommend change in process for return:** Currently, students on a second or third suspension must seek approval from the university appeals committee for possible permission to return after the suspended period. However, the university appeals committee consistently readmits these students. Therefore, this step has become an automatic readmission and does not serve a purpose. Therefore, a committee hearing seems to be unnecessary for the following reasons:

* The university appeals committee has never denied a student who has sat out the required suspension period.
* The vote at the college-level always supports the student’s return if the suspended period was served.
* The committee has a high number of appeals for requests to return after suspension and limited time to review all the other cases presented to this committee.
* There are existing avenues for students to receive academic counsel upon return other than the appeals committee. Students’ academic advisors and the Wilson Advising Center regularly intervene with students in this situation.

Therefore, while the committee supports a mandatory suspension period, members find automatic re-admission after the suspension period is adequate without the need to go before a committee. The additional step for students seems to serve no significant purpose.

**Recommend transfer coursework be accepted:** Often times students returning from a suspended period attempt to transfer work taken during their suspended period. Currently, the university does not accept transfer work completed while on a mandatory suspension resulting in the need for students to petition to have their credit accepted. However, this work is regularly accepted. The committee proposes that transfer work taken during a suspension period be eligible for consideration once the student returns. It is understandable that once suspended, students may elect to take courses on another campus for a variety of reasons. This practice will promote timely graduation and is in keeping with other institutions.

**Recommend change in mandatory suspended period:** The committee recommends a mandatory suspension for one calendar year for both second and third suspensions and dismissal from the university for fourth or subsequent suspensions with an option to appeal to the University Graduation and Academic Credits Appeals Committee.

Rewritten Policy

**READMISSION FOLLOWING ACADEMIC SUSPENSION**

**Second and Third Suspensions:** Students who earn a second or third suspension from the university are not permitted to enroll at A-State for one calendar year. The suspended period is intentional to provide time for students to gain an appreciation for the opportunity to attend college. After serving the suspension period, the student must visit the Wilson Advising Center for academic standing clearance prior to registration. ~~Students returning to A-State after serving a second suspension must first seek approval to re-enroll from the Undergraduate Graduation and Academic Credits Appeals Committee. Upon approval for re-enrollment, students must readmit with the institution before registering for classes. Arkansas State University will not accept for transfer any credit earned at other institutions during a period in which the student is on mandatory second suspension at A-State.~~

**~~Third and~~ Subsequent Suspensions:** Students who earn a ~~third~~ fourth or subsequent suspension from the university are dismissed from the university. Permission to return must be granted by appeal to the University Graduation and Academic Credit Appeals Committee ~~not permitted to enroll at A-State for two calendar years. Students returning to A-State after serving a third or subsequent suspension must first seek approval to re-enroll from the Undergraduate Graduation and Academic Credits Appeals Committee. Upon approval for re-enrollment, students must readmit with the institution before registering for classes.~~

~~Arkansas State University will not accept for transfer any credit earned at other institutions during a period in which the student is on mandatory third or subsequent suspension at A-State.~~

**Transferring Work from Other Institutions while on ~~First~~ Suspension:** Students serving a first, second, or third suspension who complete coursework at a different institution during their suspended period, may have their coursework reviewed for acceptance at A-State, upon return. ~~A-State will review transfer work completed while on a first suspension only after the student returns and successfully completes 12 hours with a 2.00 GPA, as well as the Restart@state program (if required). No more than 12 credit hours of coursework completed at another accredited college or university while on a first academic suspension from A-State will be considered for transfer and only if the coursework:~~

~~1. removes deficiencies, such as the required high school core or developmental coursework; and/or~~

~~2. is a course retaken per the A-State recomputation policy (retaking course work that was earned at A-State with a grade below “C”); and/or~~

~~3. is designated by A-State as 1000- or 2000-level.~~

**~~No credit hours earned at other institutions during a period in which the student is on mandatory second, third, or subsequent suspension from A-State will be accepted for transfer by Arkansas State University.~~**

**Undergraduate Academic Suspension Policies at Arkansas Institutions:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Institution** | **First Suspension** | **Second Suspension** | **Third Suspension** |
| Suspended period | Re-enrollment Process | Suspended period | Re-enrollment Process | Suspended period | Re-enrollment Process |
| UCA | 1 semester or participate in suspension program | participate in suspension program | 1 year | Yes | Dismissal | If approved by current clemency policy. |
| U of A | 1 semester | Appeals Committee | Indefinite Dismissal | May appeal after 2 years | N/A | N/A |
| UALR | 1 semester | 13 Hour restriction | 1 year | No | N/A | N/A |
| UAPB | 1 semester , Restricted to 13 hours | Readmitted by appeal through Success Center | 1 year | With approval of Appeals Committee or VC of AA | N/A | N/A |
| Arkansas Tech | 1 semester | Cleared by Registrar | 1 year | Cleared by Registrar | N/A | N/A |
| Current A-State | Participate in suspension program Restart | Restart Program Participation | 1 year | Must seek approval of University Appeal’s Committee | 2 years | Must seek approval of University Appeal’s Committee |
| Proposed A-State Changes | Participate in Restart | Restart Program Participation | 1 year | Approval after served suspension | 1 year | Approval after served suspension |

1. **Type of Review:** The Undergraduate Enrollment and Academic Policies Committee is requesting a full review of this policy.