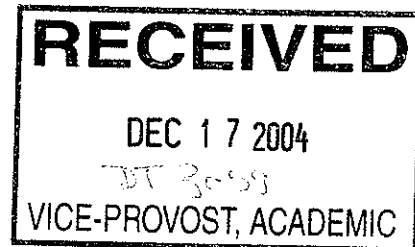




University of Toronto at Scarborough

Council of the University of Toronto at Scarborough

1265 Military Trail, Scarborough
Ontario, Canada M1C 1A4



December 14, 2004

Dr. Edith Hillan
Vice Provost, Academic
Office of the Vice President and Provost
Simcoe Hall, Room 221
King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Dr. Hillan,

At the meeting on November 9, 2004, the members of Council of the University of Toronto at Scarborough approved the proposed changes to the UTSC rules governing overall standing and the proposed change to rules governing type of degree. The changes, outlined in the enclosed documents, are being forwarded for approval at the January 12th meeting of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs.

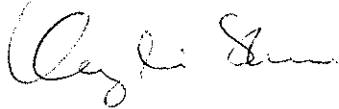
It is proposed that the changes would take effect in the 2005 Summer Session.

The introduction of the four-month suspension is being forwarded for approval. Policies and procedures that would be employed in conjunction with the four-month suspension are being forwarded for information. The appended document outlines the rationale for the changes in the determination of Academic Status.

The proposed change to the rules governing type of degree at UTSC addresses an inconsistency that exists in the current rule, which states, "Where students use a combination of three Programs to satisfy the requirements of an Honours degree, in order to receive a B.Sc., two of the three must be in the sciences." The rule becomes illogical when a student who completes two Minor Programs in the arts in addition to one Major Program in the sciences may only receive a B.A. degree, whereas a student who completes an identical set of courses in the sciences plus a

Major Program in the arts may receive a B.Sc. degree. The appended document outlines the proposed change for inclusion in the 2005-06 Calendar.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kwong-Loi Shun'.

Kwong-Loi Shun
Vice President and Principal

cc: Andrew Drummond, Assistant Secretary of Governing Council

jj

encl. (x2)



October 19, 2004

Memo to: The Academic Committee

From: Don MacMillan, Registrar

Proposed changes in the determination of Academic Status

The following changes (in italics) to the UTSC rules governing overall standing are proposed, to take effect in the 2005 Summer Session:

Determination of academic status

Academic status will be determined as follows for students who have attempted at least three full credit equivalents since beginning their studies at the University of Toronto at Scarborough or in other arts and science divisions of the University. It is determined at the end of each Session.

1. In good standing

Students who maintain a cumulative grade point average of 1.60 or better are "in good standing".

2. On probation (see also "Policies and procedures governing students on probation" below)

- Students who have attempted at least three full credit equivalents and have a cumulative GPA of less than 1.60 are placed on probation.
- Students returning from suspension (see 5 below and any provision in previous rules) shall be placed on probation again.

3. Probation cleared

Students may clear probation by achieving a cumulative GPA of 1.60 or better. Students who have cleared probation are again "in good standing".

4. Probation continued

Students may continue on probation by achieving a sessional grade point average of at least 1.60 in each session until such time as they return to good standing.

5. *Suspended or refused further registration*

Students who, by the end of a given session, have not either cleared probation or achieved a sessional grade point average of at least 1.60 shall be liable for suspension or refusal of further registration as follows, regardless of the number of credits taken in the session:

- *Students who have incurred no previous suspension will be suspended for four months (one session).*
- *Students who have previously incurred a four month (one-session) suspension will be suspended for twelve months (three sessions).*
- *Students who have previously incurred a twelve month (three-session) suspension will be suspended for thirty-six months (nine sessions).*
- *Students who have previously incurred a thirty-six month (nine-session) suspension will be refused further registration.*

In addition, it is proposed that the following policies and procedures governing students on probation be introduced in conjunction with the change in rules:

Policies and procedures governing students on probation

1. Students placed on probation are required to take a course load that does not exceed 2.0 full credit equivalents.
 - Upon notification of probation, students enrolled in future sessions must drop all courses above the 2.0 full credit equivalent maximum. Failure to do so within 7 days of notification will result in the students being withdrawn from all courses. If students petition successfully to re-enrol in courses after the registration deadline for the session, a late registration fee will be applied.
 - Students who are allowed to continue on probation because they have achieved a sessional grade point average of at least 1.60 may take a normal course load.
2. While on probation, students must meet with an advisor to discuss the reasons which led to the probation and to plan strategies to improve academic performance. (A list of appropriate advisors is available from the Registrar's Office.)

Rationale:

The number of students who fail to achieve the minimum requirements for good standing has long been of concern at UTSC. The proposed changes are intended to address both this problem and the lack of resources and time available (particularly in a trimester system) to help students overcome the circumstances which led to their probation and to set them on a path to success.

The introduction of a one-session suspension is intended to make the suspension of studies short enough that students maintain their connection to UTSC throughout the suspension and are encouraged to continue working with UTSC on strategies for success.

Implementation

Although the proposal is to make the changes effective with the 2005 Summer Session (i.e. with the new *Calendar*), it is recommended that the following be applied to all students on probation at the end of the 2005 Winter Session or who incurred a suspension at the end of or prior to the 2005 Winter Session.

1. As of the 2005 Summer Session, the new course load restriction and the advising requirement will apply to all students who are on probation regardless of when that probation was imposed. (Students who have been unable to raise their cumulative GPA to the 1.6 required for good standing but who are allowed to continue on probation because their most recent work has been deemed satisfactory, i.e. students who have achieved a sessional GPA of at least 1.6, are exempted from the course load restriction.)

Rationale: The course load restriction and the advising requirement are not intended to be punitive but are there to help provide students on probation with the support needed to improve.

2. Students who, at the end of the 2005 Winter Session, are suspended for twelve months under the current rules will have their suspension reduced to four months and they will be allowed to return for the 2005 Fall Session.

Students who were suspended for twelve months at the end of the 2004 Summer Session or the 2004 Fall Session will have the period of their suspension reduced and they will be allowed to return for the 2005 Summer Session.

Their transcript will continue to show that they were suspended for twelve months but a note will be added to indicate that they were allowed to return early from suspension. They will again be placed on probation and will be subject to the new course load restriction and the advising requirement. Future academic standing will be assessed as if their initial suspension had been for four rather than twelve months (i.e. should they become liable for another suspension, it will be for twelve rather than thirty-six months).

Rationale: It is customary for rules as important as those governing overall standing to become effective with the publication of a new *Calendar*, hence the proposal that the new rules become effective with the 2005 Summer Session which will allow them to be published in full and without subsequent change in the 2005/06 *Calendar*. However, bearing in mind that the proposed changes are seen as more beneficial to students in academic difficulty than punitive, it seems desirable to apply them to students as soon as possible.

3. No special arrangement will be made for any other student who is suspended or refused further registration under the rules in effect in 2004/05 or in earlier years.

Students who return from suspension will be placed again on probation and will be subject to the new course load restriction and the advising requirement. There will be no change in the assessment of future academic standing (i.e. if they again become liable for suspension, students who were previously suspended for twelve months will be suspended for a further thirty-six months and students who were previously suspended for thirty-six months will be refused further registration).

Rationale: The further removed the suspension the more difficult it is to apply general rules. Students suspended for twelve months will already have served the full suspension. Other students may or may not have served the entire suspension depending on how long ago it was incurred. Upon return to their studies, UTSC will provide the same support to these students as it will to any other student on probation. If they are successful in overcoming the obstacles that led to their suspension, special arrangements will not be necessary. If they are unsuccessful, they have the right to petition for a deferral or a reduction in the period of suspension. At that time their particular circumstances will be taken into consideration.

Recommendation: That the proposed changes to the rules governing overall standing and the addition of policies and procedures governing students on probation as described above be approved and that the implementation plan described above be endorsed.

Proposed change to rules governing type of degree

Introduction

The current rules governing which type of degree students receive can be found in a section titled B.A., B.Sc. and B.B.A. Degrees on page 19 of the 2004-2005 UTSC Calendar. It can also be found at

http://www.uts.utoronto.ca/courses/calendar/Degrees.html#B.A._B.Sc._and_B.B.A._Degrees

Rationale for change

The current rules can lead to illogical results. Here is an example.

A student who completes the requirements of one Major Program in the sciences and one Major Program in the arts may receive a B.Sc. degree, whereas another student who completes the requirements of one Major Program in the sciences and two Minor Programs in the arts may only receive a B.A. degree, even if they completed an identical set of courses in the sciences.

Proposed change

The section titled B.A. and B.Sc. Degrees should be rewritten as follows.

The type of degree students receive is determined by the Program(s) completed. See the list in Programs of Study (Subject POSTs) for the type of degree towards which each Program leads. Students must monitor their own progress to degree completion.

In order to receive a B.Sc. students must complete one of the following:
One specialist, one major, or two minor programs in the sciences.

In order to receive a B.A. students must complete one of the following: One specialist, one major, or two minor programs in the arts.

Students who fulfill more than one requirement may select which degree they will receive