

Proposition : 13/24_25

Proposal Type : ☒Bill ☐Resolution ☐Memorial ☐Joint Proposition ☐Other

(If Joint proposition, also select type)

Title: Bill in support of policy related to grade changes for graduate students, moving forward in the policy review process

Date Submitted: 3.31.25

Sponsor(s): Brown (A&S), Badawy (ENG), Chaitanya (ENG), DeBlieck (HEST), Hanson (ACES), Kopera-Frye (HEST), Lehnhoff (ACES), Lopez-CGallagher (NMSU-A), and others to follow

Proposed Committee: Student Success

Prior Approval: Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC), Graduate Faculty Council (GFC), and select Departmental Graduate Directors

Proposal:

During the spring 2025 academic term, the issue of graduate students' grades for repeats classes, as substitutes for grades earned in previous attempts arose, both in the Academic Deans Advisory Council (ADAC) and Graduate Faculty Council (GFC). Out of these discussions, a proposed policy was developed by members of ADAC, and this revised policy now comes to the Faculty Senate for review. This bill is to ask the Faculty Senate if they support this policy change moving forward in the policy review process. The proposed policy is attached, and a few key points about this policy are noted below:

- The proposed policy would allow higher grades in the repeated graduate classes to substitute for the lower grade in the computation of GPA. All grades would remain on the transcript, but only the higher grade in the repeat class would be included in the computation of the student's GPA.
- Current policy (ARP 4.55.9.B) concerning undergraduate students taking repeat classes allows the higher grade to substitute for the lower grade, and the intent of this proposed policy is to make the grade change policy for graduate students consistent with the policy for undergraduate students.
- On 24 March 2025, members of ADAC took a formal vote on this policy, and the vote was 6 members in favor and 2 members in opposition. Members voting against this policy wanted the policy to be retroactive such that lower grades on classes taken in the past would be replaced by higher grades obtained in the repeat attempt.
- The majority of ADAC members did not support the policy being retroactive, and the attached policy would only apply to classes taken after the revised policy is formally adopted, if in fact, the policy is adopted.

This Senate proposition is in support of this policy going forward. A "yes" vote on the proposition indicates that the Senate does not oppose this policy and supports it moving through the policy review process.

Rationale:

Both members of ADAC and the GFC believe that the proposed policy would align policy on grade changes for graduate and undergraduate students and would have a positive impact on graduate students in efforts towards

degree completion and also in students seeking positions in PhD programs or the professional workforce.