

BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Gateway Course Completion

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

institution may seek approval for a temporary part-time faculty member to exceed 75 percent FTE, including 1.) the implementation of a pilot program (e.g., gateway success pilots); 2.) an emergency situation such as an increase in student registration for a course where the institution is unable to hire additional qualified temporary part-time faculty; or 3.) assignments within STEM and health sciences disciplines for courses with labs. Such exceptions shall not exceed one year in duration except for emergency cases.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend Board policy as recommended above to support student success in gateway courses. See attached policy proposals.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

These policies were recommended by campus representatives at the April 18, 2014, NSHE Gateway Course Summit.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- x Advocating continuous enrollment for students until their mathematics and English requirements are completed reinforces the Board's requirement for completion of these requirements within the first 30 credits and provides direction to students and advisors.
- x Requiring that students without an associate's degree who did not satisfy university admission requirements after high school must place into or have completed college-level English and mathematics course for admission to a university ensures they are truly prepared for and are on the path to earn a degree at the university without spending additional time in remedial coursework.
- x Limiting part-time faculty to 75 percent of a full-time equivalent, unless an exception is granted, encourages institutions to adequately evaluate and plan for instructional needs and protects faculty from overly burdensome course loads. Prepared, adequate, quality faculty are key to student success, particularly in gateway courses.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Retain existing policy governing remediation, university admissions, and letters of appointment and benefits for temporary faculty members.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 1; Title 4, Chapter 14, Section 15; and Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 45*
 Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____
 Other: _____
 Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No
Explain: _____

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 1
Remedial Policy – Continuous Enrollment

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 1. NSHE Remedial Policy

- b. Mathematics Placement. The following scores will serve as benchmarks for placement into a college-level mathematics course. Other appropriate placement tools may be used for mathematics placement including reading tests, departmental diagnostic tests or other proprietary tests if supported by institutional research.

Test Score	Minimum Score
ACT Math	22
SAT Math	500
Compass Mathematics	65
Accuplacer College Level Math	50-63

5. Remedial education at NSHE institutions shall utilize instructional methods and course designs that are most effective in assisting students in successfully completing an entry-level college course in English and mathematics.
6. Institutions should support enrollment in the appropriate college-level entry course immediately upon completion of remedial work.
7. Requirements for college readiness and college-level course enrollment shall be publicized by each institution to the appropriate Nevada school districts.

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 14, SECTION 15
NSHE Transfer and Admissions - Qualifications for University Admission

Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 15. NSHE Transfer and Admissions [~~-(Effective Fall 2013)~~]

Transfer students to the State College and universities may be admitted under the following alternatives:

. . . .

4. Non-Associate Degree Admissions

POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 3, SECTION 45
Letters of Appointment and Benefits for Temporary Faculty Members
Additions appear in *boldface italics*; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 45. Letters of Appointment and Benefits for Temporary Faculty Members

1. Definitions

- a. Temporary Part-time Faculty. A temporary part

sciences disciplines for courses with labs. Such exceptions shall not exceed one year in duration except for emergency cases.

2. Benefits of the Temporary Faculty Member

- a. Letter of Appointment. A temporary part-time faculty member employed on a “letter of appointment” is entitled to the following benefits:
 - i. Grant-in-aid as outlined in the Board of Regents' *Handbook* (Title 4, Chapter 3, Section 13), and
 - ii. NSHE voluntary tax-sheltered annuity plan.
- b. Letter of Appointment with Benefits. A temporary part-time faculty member employed on a “letter of appointment with benefits” is entitled to the following benefits:¹
 - i. Grant-in-aid as outlined in the Board of Regents' *Handbook* (Title 4, Chapter 3 [~~18~~, Section 6]);
 - ii. NSHE voluntary tax-sheltered annuity plan; and
 - iii. State of Nevada health insurance program under *Nevada Revised Statutes* 287.045. Eligibility for state health insurance is subject to a waiting period.
- c. Temporary Full-time Faculty. A temporary full-time faculty member ***shall be issued a temporary contract and*** [~~under contract~~] is entitled to the following benefits:
 - i. All benefits provided to full-time faculty, except consideration for tenure and notice of non-reappointment.

3. Temporary Faculty Member Employed by More Than One Institution

- a. A temporary part-time faculty member who is employed concurrently at more than one institution and whose combined assignment is less than half time shall receive letters of appointment from each institution.
- b. If the combined assignment is half time or more, the temporary part-time faculty member shall receive letters of appointment with benefits from each institution.
- c. The institutions employing such temporary part-time faculty members shall share benefit costs in an amount proportionate to the amount of time assigned at the institution as reflected in the percent of salary paid by each institution.

¹ Except as provided herein a temporary part-time faculty member on a “letter of appointment with benefits” is not entitled to participate in the state or NSHE retirement programs. A temporary part-time faculty member on a “letter of appointment with benefits,” who is employed for six consecutive months and who has previously been a Public Employees' Retirement System member, is entitled to Public Employees Retirement System participation, in accordance with [NRS] *Nevada Revised Statutes* 286.297(9) and 286.802(2). In such circumstances, the part-time faculty member employed on a letter of appointment with benefits must be employed at a minimum .51% FTE.

d. *Temporary part-time faculty employed by more than one institution*