# BOARD OF REGENTS BRIEFING PAPER

Handbook Revision, Excess Credit Fee

# **BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:**

At its September 2012, meeting, the Board received a presentation on the report of the ad hoc Committee on Access and Affordability, which was appointed by the Chancellor in 2011 in response to Nevada's rising tuition level(y)-&fgimied) finnceial

### BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

The policy is intended to discourage students from accruing excess credits and thereby encourage them to complete their degree in a timely manner.

The policy aligns with existing Title IV Federal Student Aid requirements concerning Satisfactory Academic Progress, thus reinforcing existing protocols designed to encourage degree completion.

While the provisions of this policy align with federal Title IV Federal Student Aid requirements that are only applicable to financial aid recipients, this policy applies to all students.

The policy will shift more cost to the students in cases where students fail to appropriately progress toward their educational goals but continue to take courses.

### POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

Strong concerns from institutional representatives from student affairs and financial aid have been expressed regarding the challenges and potential cost of implementation.

The administrative cost of implementing the policy is unknown at this time, and may include the need to develop a modification to the student information system.

There will be students under this policy who have met the 150 percent threshold for financial aid and who will also meet the 150 percent threshold for the excess credit fee, leaving those students in a situation of diminished financial aid support and having to pay an excess fee.

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

Do not adopt the proposed excess credit fee; or

Postpone adoption of the proposed excess credit fee until staff can visit at least one other state that has implemented such a policy.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

<b>‰</b>	Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # Chapter # Section #						
X	Amends Current Board Policy: Title #_4 Chapter #17 new Section #4						
<b>‰</b>	% Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # Section #						
<b>‰</b>	Other:						
<b>‰</b>	Fiscal Impact: Yes X No						
	Explain: Administrative costs to implement the new policy through a modification to the student information system						
may be required but are unknown at this time.							

# POLICY PROPOSAL TITLE 4, CHAPTER 17, new SECTION 4

**Excess Credit Assessment** 

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

## Section 4. Excess Credit Fee (Effective Fall 2014)

- 1. A 50 percent excess credit fee on the per-credit registration fee shall be charged to a student who has accrued attempted credits equal to 150 percent of the credits required for the student's program of study. The excess credit fee shall be imposed on registration fees charged in the current semester and in subsequent semesters, including summer terms, where a student's cumulative credit hour total exceeds 150 percent of the credits required for the student's program of study.
- 2. Credits from a previously earned degrees or certificates shall be excluded from the 150 percent credit calculation.
- 3. Institutions shall establish an appeals process and may exclude from the 150 percent calculation the following:
  - a. Credits earned through examinations for determining credit for prior learning as authorized in Title 4, Chapter 14;
  - b. Credits attempted while enrolled as a high school student if those credits do not meet the degree requirements for the student's program of study;
  - c. Credits attempted at an institution outside NSHE if those credits do not meet the degree requirements for the student's program of study;
  - d. Credits attempted for remedial courses;
  - e. Dissertation credits; and
  - f. Other credits determined by the institution as inappropriate for the 150 percent credit calculation.
- 4. Community service and non-credit bearing continuing education courses are not subject to the provisions of this section. Credits for post-baccalaureate and post-masters certification courses are also not subject to the provisions of this section.
- 5. The revenue generated from the excess credit fee shall supplement student advising and counseling services, including salary and wages, operating, and equipment expenses.
- 6. Institutions shall publicize the excess credit fee policy set forth in this section in such a manner to ensure that students have adequate notification of the fee. Institutions shall establish a procedure for notifying students who are approaching the 150 percent credit threshold.

RENUMBER SECTIONS 4 THROUGH 24 AS SECTIONS 5 THROUGH 25.

		Credits Attempted			
Associate's Degrees		60 90	91 105	106 120	Over 120
	2008 09	62.8%	17.2%	9.4%	10.7%
	2009 10	62.0%	18.1%	9.9%	10.0%
2010 11		62.1%	16.3%	10.9%	10.7%
Bachelor's Degrees 2008 09 2009 10		120 180	181 210	211 240	Over 240
		90.6%	7.1%	1.7%	0.6%
		91.5%	6.3%	1.7%	0.5%
	2010 11	89.5%	7.2%	2.5%	0.8%
	1				
Associate'	•	60 90	91 105	106 120	Over 120
2	2008 09	61.3%	17.5%	10.4%	10.9%
CSN	2009 10	56.6%	20.9%	11.1%	11.4%
	2010 11	60.1%	15.4%	11.7%	12.8%
	2008 09	70.1%	15.9%	5.7%	8.3%
GBC	2009 10	71.3%	13.2%	5.7%	9.8%
O	2010 11	68.3%	16.9%	7.0%	7.7%
ပ္ပ	2008 09	61.5%	17.3%	8.8%	12.4%
TMCC	2009 10	61.6%	17.7%	10.8%	9.9%
F	2010 11	59.6%	19.2%	11.3%	9.9%
ပ	2008 09	67.5%	16.3%	8.5%	7.7%
WNC	2009 10	76.2%	11.6%	6.4%	5.8%
	2010 11	73.6%	12.3%	8.6%	5.5%
Bachelor's	Degrees	120 180	181 210	211 240	Over 240
Comm	2008 09	83.7%	14.0%	2.3%	0.0%
unity	2009 10	89.4%	8.5%	0.0%	2.1%
Colleges	2010 11	80.7%	12.3%	7.0%	0.0%
4.5	2008 09	84.7%	9.2%	4.1%	2.0%
NSC	2009 10	84.3%	9.6%	6.1%	0.0%
_	2010 11	89.1%	7.2%	2.2%	1.4%
>	2008 09	90.5%	6.7%	2.1%	0.7%
뒬	2009 10	90.7%	6.5%	2.0%	0.8%
$\supset$	2010 11	88.6%	7.2%	2.9%	1.3%
~	2008 09	91.3%	7.2%	1.1%	0.4%
UNR	2009 10	92.9%	5.8%	1.1%	0.2%
_	2010 11	90.8%	7.0%	1.9%	0.3%

There is variation in the credits required for associate's and bachelor's degrees by program so the excess credits threshold may exceed 90 for an associate's and 180 for a bachelor's.

Students who had earned a degree within the same career but at a level equal to or higher than that being reported were excluded (e.g. a student who earned a associate's degree but had earned another associate's or bachelor's degree either prior to or during the reporting year would have been removed).

Attempted credits include all credits (remedial excluded) attempted at NSHE institutions through the term during which the student earned a degree. Out of state credits transferred in are not included.