

Academic Affairs Committee : 2016-2017

Charge Review policy Diplomas and Degrees Certification D13.0 (LR 2013)
AA8: according to policy B05.0.

Subcommittee: Danielle Smith, (Christine Licata); Minseok Kwon

Current Status:

Undergraduates: There does seem to be any pressing concerns about certification or the ceremony

Graduates (PhD): The dean of graduate studies, Twyla Cummings, is streamlining the process for certification and getting all colleges to adopt a uniform procedure for Convocation and Commencement ceremonies. The PhD directors of all colleges are in agreement.

Recommendations:

1. The AAC does not recommend any policy change to D 13.0 at this time

Academic Affairs Committee : 2016-2017

Charge Review and summarize the report from the OTG Task Force and
AA9: make recommendations for revision, as necessary, to Course
Withdrawal Policy (D.05,IV)

Subcommittee: Scott Wolcott, Joseph Miller, Joyce Hertzson, Christine Licata

Current Status:

The final report of the OTG task force was only available recently.

1. Provost Haefner shared the OTG report with the AS on March 9, 2017.
2. Revisions to course withdrawal policy will be discussed with AAC in 2017-2018 and brought to AS for action

Effect on Course Withdrawal Policy

Considerations for revisions to policy:

- Prohibiting full-time students from dropping below 12 credit hour without departmental approval
- Prohibiting students from withdrawing from the same course more than once
- Placing a maximum credit withdrawal limit for a student's undergraduate career (4-6 credit bearing courses)

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Information from current OTG Report

Key Issues recognized in OTG (on Course Withdrawal):

RIT's current course withdrawal policy is very liberal and contributes to students not earning sufficient credits to graduate on time. Students must earn a minimum of 30 credits per academic year in order to graduate on time. Based on our research, the number of course withdrawals is significant. Additionally, the number of students who withdraw from at least one course in an academic year and don't earn 30 or more RIT credits in the same academic year is also significant.

Our current process **allows students to withdraw from courses without receiving information about the possible impact.** We suspect that students are frequently unaware of the impact of their decision to withdraw from one or more courses. A real-time mechanism that provides guidance before the course withdrawal occurs may result in fewer course withdrawals and more students positioning themselves for on-time graduation.

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Recommendations in current OTG (Course Withdrawal)

Given the large number of course withdrawals that occur every term, we recommend modifying the current course withdrawal request process within SIS. The request process would require a student to review statements about the potential impact of course withdrawals, acknowledge their understanding, and identify the reason for the course withdrawal before submitting their request. This would require a custom build in SIS, and could be modeled after a similar process at NYU. We believe that this would ensure that students are making informed decisions regarding their course withdrawal, and we suspect that some students may choose not to process their request once they read through the impact statements.

Recommendation:

1. The AAC recommends that the charge for making revisions to Course Withdrawal Policy will be addressed by AAC during the 2017-18 Academic year in consultation with members of the OTG Task Force.