



27 January 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members University Senate

FROM: University Senate Council

RE: AGENDA ITEM: University Senate Meeting, Monday, February 9, 1998. 3:00 PM Reconsideration of proposal to revise University Senate Rules, Section V - 3.1.1 a, Repeat Option

**Proposal:** {Amend the first paragraph of 5.3.1.1 as follows. The language to be eliminated is in brackets [ ]; new language is underlined}

5.3.1.1 Repeat Option (US: 11/14/83; US: 4/13/87; US: 11/14/88; US: 4/23/90; US: 9/20/93 US: 4/11/94; US: 2/9/98)

A student shall have the option to repeat once as many as three different *completed* courses [which have been completed] with only the grade, credit hours and quality points for the second completion used in computing the student's academic standing and credit for graduation. The limit of three repeat options holds for a student's entire undergraduate career, no matter how many degrees or programs are attempted. A student [also] may not use the repeat option when retaking a course on a Pass-Fail basis [(provided the course meets the requirements for being taken Pass-Fail), even though] if the course was originally taken for a letter grade. [If a failing grade (F) is earned on the second attempt, the original grade will continue to be used in calculating the grade point average and the second attempt shall constitute exhaustion of one of the student's three repeat options under this provision.]

A student exercising the repeat option must notify in writing the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled. A student may exercise the repeat option at any time prior to graduation. (US: 4/11/94)

If a student officially withdraws from the second attempt, then the grade, credit hours and quality points for the first completion shall constitute the grade in that course for official purposes. Permission to attempt again the same course shall be granted by the instructor

and the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled (see Section IV - 4.3.3). (US: 4/11/94).

The repeat option may be exercised only the second time a student takes a course for a letter grade, not a subsequent time. (US: 2/14/94)

- \* A student may exercise the repeat option by taking a special exam (as provided in 5.2.1.2); if the request for the exam is approved, the student may request that the grade in the course be recorded under the repeat option. (RC: 1/27/84)
- \* There is no relationship between the academic bankruptcy rule (V - 5.3.1.7) and the repeat option. To the extent that a student has used any or all of his/her repeat options in the first enrollment, he/she no longer has them available during a subsequent enrollment. If not previously used, they are available during the subsequent enrollment. (RC: 9/29/82)
- \* Attendance at a community college is the equivalent of attendance at the Lexington campus for purposes of exercising the repeat option. (RC: 9/28/82)
- \* A student who audits a course in one semester and then takes the course for credit in a subsequent semester is to be regarded as having taken the course only once - the subsequent semester. (RC: 1/20/94)
- \* Under the revisions of the repeat option rules adopted by the University Senate in April 1994, the event is the filing of the repeat option. Thus the new filing deadline applies to all repeat options filed after the end of the Spring 1994 semester (RC: 3/31/94)
- \* A student must be enrolled at UK at the time he/she files the repeat option. Thus a student who has transferred to another institution would not qualify since he/she is not enrolled at UK. (RC: 3/31/94)
- \* "The student must notify in writing the dean of the college in which the student is enrolled" means that a student must be enrolled at the time the repeat option is exercised. (RC: 3/31/94)

\*Indicates Rules Committee interpretations

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*Note:* The Committee recommends that the form used for exercise of the repeat option be revised to state clearly and prominently that the option may be exercised after the course is completed, so long as the student is still enrolled at UK. No Rule change is necessary to implement this recommendation, since forms are not specified in the Senate Rules.

Rationale: The Rules Committee concluded that the major problems with the repeat option result from its possible use to repeat a course on a Pass-Fail basis when the course was originally taken for a letter grade. In particular, the Senate raised the issue of the “opportunistic F”, where a student repeats the course, attends enough classes to avoid a grade of “N”, and then stops attending and working, receiving an “F”, which removes the previous grade (as well as the credit hours). The rule amendment as drafted removes this possibility, because a student is required to exercise the repeat option for a letter grade if the initial attempt was made for a letter grade. The Committee recognizes that this

restricts the ability of students to exercise the Pass-Fail option. However, we concluded that this restriction was very limited, and was necessary to resolve the conflicts in these two rules. In addition, we interpreted the intent of the Pass-Fail rule to be to encourage students to try different courses, perhaps not in their major and in areas where they had no prior experience. Such courses, the Committee believed, would not be ones a student would likely want or need to show grade improvement by using the repeat option.

Background: In the late summer, 1997, a member of the Central Advising Service (CAS) staff asked for a rule interpretation governing the use of repeat options. Specifically, the question was whether the same interpretation could be applied to a student taking a repeat option for a letter grade as stipulated for a repeat option taken pass/fail. The Rules Committee informally interpreted the Rules to apply to both letter grade and pass/fail attempts and suggested new wording so that failure in a repeat option always resulted in the first grade earned counting. The Senate Council disagreed with the Rules Committee, and moved that the last sentence in paragraph one be deleted so that in all cases, the repeat option (second attempt) is always the one to count. That proposal was considered by the University Senate at its meeting on September 8, 1997, and returned to Committee for further consideration. The revised proposal before the Senate was recommended by the Senate Rules Committee and endorsed by the Senate Council and is recommended for Senate adoption.

Implementation: Summer Session, 1998

Note: If approved, the proposal will be codified by the Rules Committee

US Agenda: Repeat Option - 2.9.98