

University of Kentucky Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee

From: Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee (Joe Sottile (Chair), Kenneth Calvert, Raphael Finkel, Larry Gottlob, Lee Ann Jung, Peggy Piascik, Glenn Telling)

To: Sheila Brothers, Office of the Senate Council

Date: October 22, 2007

The following proposals have been reviewed by the University Senate Admissions and Academic Standards Committee.

College of Engineering

Proposal: Modification to the New KCTCS Transfer Policy

The statement below reflects a modification in the original proposal and clarifies the policy for students who transfer to the University of Kentucky main campus.

Propose that the University of Kentucky accept grades, quality points, and repeat options for students at West Kentucky Community and Technical College in the approved Extended Campus Cooperative Baccalaureate Programs in Mechanical Engineering or Chemical Engineering. If students subsequently transfer to the UK main campus, whether they remain in chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, or change majors, they will be treated as transfer students, in which case, grades, quality points, and repeat options will not be carried forward.

Approved as modified above.



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

October 24, 2006

Office of the Dean

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MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate Council

FROM: G. T. Lineberry, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Commonwealth & International Programs

William E. Murphy, Ph.D., P.E.
Director, Engineering Extended Campus Programs – Paducah

RE: Request for Modification to the New KCTCS Transfer Policy

The College of Engineering is requesting a limited modification to the recent Senate action which terminated the practice of merging grades, quality points, and academic standing into the UK GPA for students from KCTCS. The modification is sought for students enrolled **only in the approved Extended Campus Cooperative Baccalaureate Programs in Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering in Paducah, Kentucky, and only those engineering students transitioning from West Kentucky Community and Technical College to the University of Kentucky.** In 2000, the Senate approved the creation of these two programs, and the CPE recognizes the Paducah programs as official “cooperative programs.” For these two programs, West Kentucky Community and Technical College (WKCTC) provides the basic math and science courses, as well as the general studies course requirements. On the Paducah campus, Murray State University (MSU) faculty members, teach the upper-level non-engineering courses required by the published UK engineering curricula. On-site UK engineering faculty members and MSU engineering faculty members that are jointly appointed in the UK engineering departments teach the upper-division engineering courses. UK staff members provide program admission, course registration, student advising, and other student services at the Paducah site. In one recent process improvement, students now pay tuition and fees under a “unified tuition plan,” whereby the tuition is set at WKCTC rates until the students achieve engineering standing, after which UK tuition and fees apply. UK collects all tuition and fees and disburses them to the partnering institutions under terms of a signed agreement. UK is the home school for all financial aid for these engineering students, including federal and state programs and the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program. The students are clearly UK students all four years of their academic career, even during those semesters when the majority of their courses are taught by WKCTC.

Because the programs in Paducah are unique in that they are cooperative, a brief set of informational bullets are offered:

- * The programs are physically separated from the UK-Lexington campus by

400 km; therefore, all student instruction and all support services are provided on the Paducah campus. Typically, only at graduation will students come to Lexington.

- * Criteria for admission, curricular requirements, and academic standards are identical to their sister programs in Lexington.
- * Full-time faculty in Paducah are hired in Special Title Series positions with standard UK promotion and tenure procedures applied.
- * The programs gained ABET accreditation in 2003, and since that time approximately 90 students have obtained UK B.S. degrees in either Mechanical Engineering or Chemical Engineering.

On September 14, 2006, following several meetings within the College of Engineering, a meeting was held among: Dr. William Murphy, Ms. Bonita Lykins (Paducah Student Services), Dr. Kaveh Tagavi, Mr. Don Witt, Ms. Jacquie Hagar, Ms. Michelle Garth, Ms. Robin Gray, and me. At this meeting, participants decided that the best course of action would be to request a singular modification of the recently-adopted policy, thereby continuing the acceptance of grades, quality points, and repeat options from WKCTC into UK, limited by the terms explained herein. We emphasize that this would apply only to students who have gained UK admission into engineering and are pursuing a B.S. in either Mechanical or Chemical Engineering in Paducah, as well as these same students who may subsequently transfer to UK-Lexington to complete their engineering major.

Justification for this request is rather complex but can be broken down into either (1) academic issues or (2) financial issues. The following addresses each category of issues in terms of the impact on the student and/or program should the exception not be granted. For the academic issues, the page number in parentheses refers to the appropriate official policy within the current UK Bulletin. Most of the financial issues arise as a consequence of the successful implementation of the “unified tuition plan,” whereby UK is considered the “home” school for UK-Paducah engineering students for all financial aid matters. The impetus for the unified tuition plan emerged through conversations with President Todd during a 2001 Paducah campus visit and took approximately three years to craft and make operational.

(1) Academic Issues:

- (a) Probation/Suspension (p. 67) – In the event a Paducah student’s cumulative UK GPA drops below a 2.0, he/she will be suspended from the College of Engineering. Because there is no other UK college represented in Paducah, students will be denied the opportunity to increase the cumulative UK GPA. Furthermore, reinstatement to the College will not be possible for suspended Paducah students.
- (b) Repeat options for engineering standing (p. 187) – For the Paducah programs, all core courses are WKCTC courses; therefore the loss of repeat options could have dramatic impact on student success. At present, and consistent with the current Bulletin, the use of repeat options, as well as other academic standards and policies, are identical to

those available to students on the UK campus, which has served the programs well since their inception.

- (c) Residency requirement (p. 70) – According to the new Senate rule, if the University no longer includes WKCTC course work for the 30 of the last 36 hours residency requirement (83%), further complication will ensue. Currently, UK-Paducah Chemical Engineering students who follow the prescribed UK engineering curriculum sequence earn 48 cumulative hours during semesters 6-8, 33 of which are UK credits (68%). During semesters 7-8, they earn 26 UK hours and 32 cumulative hours (81%). UK-Paducah Mechanical Engineering students who follow the prescribed UK engineering curriculum sequence earn 36 UK hours out of 48 hours (75%) during semesters 6-8. For semesters 7-8, they earn 24 UK hours and 33 cumulative hours (73%). (Note: Few engineering students complete degree requirements in eight semesters, which can exacerbate this situation.) We currently address the residency requirement by routine placement of a waiver from the Dean into the student's academic file.
- (d) Commencement honors (p. 71) – At graduation, mainly due to the lower-division engineering courses that are taught by WKCTC faculty, UK-Paducah Chemical Engineering students will have a total of 54 UK hours and UK-Paducah Mechanical Engineering students will have a total of 57 hours, provided they do not transfer engineering hours from another ABET-accredited institution. Therefore, with the 90/60 credit-hour requirement in place, UK-Paducah students will never be eligible for any form of commencement honors without an exception to this policy being granted.

(2) Financial Issues:

- (a) Upper-division engineering scholarship qualification – By the time a student in Paducah progresses to engineering standing, he/she has only two (ME) and five (CME) grades in SIS/IRIS. Currently, the College of Engineering considers upper-division engineering students as continuing students for scholarship purposes. While it can be argued that this could be accommodated through internal means, doing so places an undue burden on both the student and the student services personnel involved. The requested exception would resolve this issue.
- (b) KEES qualification – This scholarship is a very serious matter. Should the recent Senate ruling stand and be applied to UK students enrolled in the cooperative programs, UK will not be able to report cumulative GPA's or full-/part-time attendance status to KHEAA for continuation of scholarships. The home school, the school that disburses the KEES funds, must report this information to KHEAA. Note: Consortium agreements may be possible if we pursue them; however, such agreements between multiple institutions are complicated and are not in the best interests of both students and staff.

- (c) State and federal grants and loans – UK will have difficulty determining qualifications for full-/part-time financial aid offers, loan repayment and deferments, Reasonable Academic Progress, etc., on IRIS. After Paducah students exceed 90 credit hours, WKCTC cannot offer financial aid of any kind. This problem affects a significant number of students who have changed majors or who are seeking a second B.S. degree.

The College of Engineering, for the reasons enumerated above, respectfully requests a continuance of the policy of permitting the grades, quality points, and repeat options to transfer to UK only for those transitioning students who begin their studies in the CPE-approved, ABET-accredited B.S. programs in Mechanical Engineering and Chemical Engineering in Paducah and who maintain their studies within the College of Engineering. Without this accommodation, students in the UK programs in Paducah will be adversely impacted. In fact, the end result may weigh heavily on the sustainability of the programs themselves. Please note that the request does not extend to the transfer of MSU courses into the students' curricula but is limited to the single KCTCS institution, WKCTC, upon whose campus the programs reside and who provides virtually the entire pre-engineering core curriculum.

We stand ready to meet with members of the Council as needed, or, Senate members may contact us by phone (257-2833 for Dr. Lineberry or 270-534-3111 for Dr. Murphy). Thank you for your consideration.

cc. Dean Thomas W. Lester
Dr. Donn E. Hancher, Associate Dean

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Approved by College of Engineering faculty on 12/04/06.