

## General Legislative Action

At its special meeting on April 30, 2020, the Faculty Senate approved Class B Legislation to amend *Student Governance and Policies*, Chapters 115 (Courses), 114 (Degrees, Graduation, and Commencement), and 107 (Academic Probation and Dismissal for Low Scholarship). President Ana Mari Cauce has also approved the proposed legislation. This legislation revises requirements/regulations for distance learning courses. The faculty was given the opportunity to submit written objections to its substantive nature, under the Faculty Code, Chapter 22, [Section 22-74](#) Senate Procedure: Class B Actions. There were no objections to this legislation.

### Class B Legislation

#### Student Governance and Policies

#### Scholastic Regulations

**Chapter 115, Section 1 (Course-Numbering System), Chapter 114, Section 1 (Depth Requirements) and Section 2 (Requirements for the Bachelor's Degree), and Chapter 107, Section 1 (Cumulative Grade-Point Average)**

#### Background and Rationale

The Faculty Council on Teaching and Learning, with the support of the Faculty Council on Academic Standards and the Office of the University Registrar, recommends amending several regulations related to distance learning: Scholastic Regulations Chapter 115 (Courses), Chapter 114 (Degrees, Graduation, and Commencement) and Chapter 107 (Academic Probation and Dismissal for Low Scholarship) based on the following findings:

#### Chapter 115:

- DL courses are required to undergo an extensive review in the third year by the University Curriculum Committee, a process that is not required for courses taught on campus and puts an undue administrative burden on units offering online courses. This statute was developed at a time when the university was just beginning to explore distance learning. We now offer over 900 online courses and the additional effort does not reflect what we now know about the risks and challenges of this mode of instruction, nor does it align with the levels of review and evaluation we require of courses taught on campus.
- DL courses offered by the University of Washington should be recognized as residence credits.
- Home units may develop their own systems and processes of monitoring online courses, as they do for courses taught on campus, but an additional review at the university level is expensive, labor-intensive, discriminatory, and unnecessary.

#### Chapter 114:

- If DL courses are recognized as residence credits, it will no longer be necessary for a distance-learning degree programs to petition for a waiver of the 45-credit resident requirement. Eliminating the need for this waiver will significantly diminish the Registrar's administrative burden of adjudicating these waiver requests.

#### Chapter 107:

- If DL courses are recognized as residence credits, it will no longer be necessary to call them out specifically to calculate the cumulative grade-point average.

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### Chapter 115

## Courses

### 1. Course-Numbering System

#### I. DL Courses

8) In addition to the initial review, DL courses must be reviewed in the third year by the appropriate curriculum review committees of the school or college. It is the responsibility of the home school or college to determine the necessity of and procedure for additional review of DL courses after the courses have been approved at the university level.

10) DL courses offered by the student's home campus are considered residence credits at that campus.

*S-B 43, October 1949 with Presidential approval; HB, 1950; S-B 92, May 1964 with Presidential approval; S-C 180, October 1968; AI, November 1968; S-B 167, November 26, 2001 with Presidential approval; AI, February 9, 2006; S-B 173, April 6, 2007 with Presidential approval; AI, February 9, 2015; RC, October 27, 2017.*

## Chapter 114

### Degrees, Graduation, and Commencement

#### 1. Depth Requirements

##### B. Residence Requirement

To be recommended for a first or subsequent Bachelor's degree, a student must complete 45 of ~~his or her~~ their final 60 credits as a matriculated student in residence at the University of Washington campus where the degree is to be earned. Exceptions to this rule are as follows:

1) Of the 45 resident credits required for a UW undergraduate degree, no more than 10 credits may be waived by the dean of the college or school awarding the degree and only on a case-by-case basis.

2) A unit desiring to develop a provisional undergraduate distance-learning degree may petition the college or school and the ~~Faculty Council on Academic Standards~~ appropriate campus undergraduate program governance body for a waiver of ~~the 45-credit resident requirement and/or~~ the 90-credit course limit. Such petitions should identify the reasons why the offering needs to waive the requirement, based on audience, access, or unit academic mission, describe the relationship of the new program to existing degrees, justify the methods of content delivery, and describe the goals and oversight needed to meet institutional standards. If the petition is approved, the degree may be implemented with a repetition of the above mentioned review required in the sixth year for continuance.

*S-B 92, May 1964; S-B 105, March 1969; S-B 151, January 21, 1991; S-B 167, November 26, 2001; S-B 173, April 6, 2007: all with Presidential approval.*

## Chapter 107

### Academic Probation and Dismissal for Low Scholarship

#### 1. Cumulative Grade-Point Average

Class B 195

Cumulative grade-point average includes only credits granted for courses taken in residence at the University of Washington and DL courses. This specifically excludes transfer and extension credits, and credits earned by examination.

*S-B 95, December 10, 1964; S-B 173, April 6, 2007: both with Presidential approval.*

*Approved by:  
Faculty Senate  
April 30, 2020*