

LSU A&M Faculty Senate Resolution 11-06
Transfer and Re-Entry of Students into Curricula
Sponsored by Senator Joan King

Whereas there is a written statement in the General Catalog stating, “The catalog that determines the curricular requirements for an undergraduate degree is the catalog that is in effect at the time of the student’s entry. This catalog may be used for a maximum of 10 years provided enrollment is not interrupted for two consecutive semesters. Students whose enrollment is interrupted for two or more consecutive regular semesters may choose no catalog earlier than the one in force at the time of re-entry.” (These students are considered to be native students); and

Whereas the General Catalog also states, “Continuing students may elect a subsequent catalog when a new major is selected or when a catalog reflects a revised curriculum. Transfer students may use the catalog in effect at the time of their first entry into an accredited higher education institution, provided that the transfer to LSU is made within five years of the first entry.” (Transfer students are considered to be non-native students); and

Whereas the General Catalog also states, “The University will make a reasonable effort to honor the statement of curricular requirements in the chosen issue of the catalog. However, because courses and programs are sometimes discontinued and requirements are changed as a result of actions by accrediting associations and other external agencies, the University, having sole discretion, shall make the final determination whether or not degree requirements are met.” (1); and

Whereas returning and within LSU A&M transfer students are directly affected by changes in curricula (2); and

Whereas there is an unwritten policy that prevents students from transferring from one curriculum to another during the semester; and

Whereas there is no strong rationale to delay the internal transfer of students from one curriculum to another even though a list of majors for each curriculum must be determined at specific times; and

Whereas undue restrictions on internal transfer or choices in curriculum catalog for transfer or continuing students may result in a decrease in student graduation and/or retention rates;

Be it resolved that the LSU A&M Faculty Senate requests that students who matriculated in any program at LSU, who were unable to complete the last semester of their curriculum in a sequential manner due to extenuating circumstances, be allowed to complete that degree program upon re-entry regardless of whether the program was terminated previous to the student graduating in that degree program.

Footnotes:

- (1) In The Daily Reveille on February 25, 2011 page 11 a story stated “Jeannine Kahn, Regents assistant commissioner for academic affairs, said the faculty and students work together to ensure success when programs are terminated or institutions merged. Also in the same article, Jeannine Kahn was quoted as saying “it is common practice for students to be able to complete their degree programs if affected.”
- (2) For example, several internal transfer students, in the past year, missed the opportunity to transfer prior to administrative changes in their program and were unable later to transfer to curricula that were in the process of being merged due to Board of Regents termination. For another example, at least one student, when returning after sitting out for one year due to financial reasons, was unable to complete the last semester of their degree program and will now be required to return for an extra semester to complete a different degree program resulting in greater financial burden.