Faculty Senate Resolutions
Transmittal Form

Title: Resolution on Clarifying Regional Accreditation Requirement in Transfer Credit Policy

Sponsor: EPSA

Type: [ ] Resolution of Handbook Policy (signature required)
      [X] Resolution of Non-Handbook Policy (signature required)
      [ ] Resolution of Position (no signature required)

Date Passed: May 1, 2017    Date Response Due: June 30, 2017

Disposition of Resolution

Date of disposition: 5/4/17

[ ] Signed:

[ ] Will not be signed (explanation attached)

[ ] Alternative date to be negotiated

[ ] Signature not required

Senate Office

[ ] Resolution logged in
[ ] Database updated
[ ] Handbook updated if applicable
[ ] Resolution filed
RESOLUTION ON CLARIFYING REGIONAL ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT IN TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

Educational Policy & Student Affairs Committee
Faculty Senate
APPROVED May 1, 2017

Whereas Ohio University’s transfer credit policy is a collaborative effort owned by academic leadership and executed by administrative units of the institution at the faculty’s discretion,

Whereas Ohio University follows best practices of peer institutions as defined by the Higher Learning Commission’s Assumed Practices when determining what is transferable credit,

Whereas the Higher Learning Commission’s Assumed Practices recognizes college-level coursework from institutions with accreditation from a major regional accrediting body as the foundation of credit transferability,

Whereas in 2009 the Ohio Department of Higher Education directed that public institutions should further define a regional accrediting body as one that is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA),

Whereas in 2011, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NCCU), the regional accrediting body for a number of western states, opted out of its membership with CHEA and is now recognized as a previous member but remains the regional accreditor for a number of flagship universities,

Whereas current catalog language now restricts Ohio University from accepting external credit from NCCU-accredited institutions,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate endorses the OHIO Undergraduate Catalog be amended as follows to clarify the regional accreditation requirement in transfer credit policy:

Specifically, transfer credit will be accepted for successfully completed (as defined below), college-level courses from institutions of higher education that are accredited by regional accrediting commissions that have been recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), or the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.
MEMORANDUM
TO: Charles Buchanan, chair, Educational Policies and Student Affairs Committee
FROM: Candace J. Boening, Associate Vice Provost for Enrollment Management and Director of Undergraduate Admissions
DATE: March 28, 2017
RE: Proposal to clarify regional accreditation requirement in transfer credit policy

Overview

Ohio University's transfer credit policy is a collaborative effort owned by academic leadership and executed by administrative units of the institution at the faculty's direction. Faculty and academic leadership, as the owner of curriculum and conferral of degrees, develop and define the institution's policy. Undergraduate Admissions applies and executes Ohio University's transfer credit policy through its capacity in holding the University Examiner designation.

In this spirit of collaboration, Undergraduate Admissions seeks to work with EPSA to clarify the regional accrediting bodies that recognize institutions from which students are eligible to submit coursework for transferable credit.

Background

When determining what is transferable credit, Ohio University follows best practices of peer institutions and as defined by the Higher Learning Commission's Assumed Practices in recognizing college-level coursework from institutions with accreditation from a major regional accrediting body as the foundation of credit transferability. These commonly-recognized regional accrediting bodies include:

- Higher Learning Commission
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges

In addition to the requirement for regional accreditation from a sending institution, in 2009 the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) directed that public institutions should further define a regional accrediting body as one that is a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA), of which all aforementioned regional accrediting bodies held membership at the time. OHIO's transfer catalog policy was adjusted at that time to reflect the directive from ODHE, and currently reads as:

"Specifically, transfer credit will be accepted for successfully completed (as defined below), college-level courses from Ohio institutions of higher education that are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Higher Learning Commission or other regional accrediting commissions that have been recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)."
In 2011, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NCCU), the regional accrediting body for a number of western states, opted out of its membership with CHEA and is now recognized by CHEA as a previous member. NCCU maintains its status as a recognized regional accrediting body by the United States Department of Education and continues to serve as the regional accreditor to a number of flagship universities, including Association of American Universities members, the University of Oregon and the University of Washington.

Impact

Technically, current catalog language now restricts OHIO from accepting external credit from NCCU-accredited institutions given its ended relationship with CHEA. In summer 2016, Undergraduate Admissions sought and received a limited, temporary exception from the Executive Vice President and Provost that allowed OHIO to accept courses accredited by NCCU, alongside its peer regional accrediting bodies. The exception was granted with the anticipation that Undergraduate Admissions would engage EPSA to review and update the Catalog policy as appropriate.

Undergraduate Admissions has confirmed with ODHE that adjusting Catalog policy in the way proposed here will not conflict with state policy. This practice will align OHIO with current practices of our peer institutions within the state, and will eliminate a potential barrier to enrollment for students with college credit earned at NCCU-accredited institutions.

Proposal

Undergraduate Admissions proposes an update to the OHIO Undergraduate Catalog that clarifies the specific regional accrediting bodies from which an institution must have recognition in order for its coursework to be eligible for transfer:

"Specifically, transfer credit will be accepted for successfully completed (as defined below), college-level courses from Ohio institutions of higher education that are accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools Higher Learning Commission or other regional accrediting commissions that have been recognized by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)." or the following regional accrediting bodies:

- Middle States Commission on Higher Education
- New England Association of Schools and Colleges Commission on Institutions of Higher Education
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
- Western Association of Schools and Colleges