**Resolution for the Adoption of an Academic Fresh Start Policy**

Resolution of Non-handbook Policy

EPSA

First Reading

Ohio University

*Whereas*, the Ohio University Faculty Senate recognizes the importance of providing opportunities for academic renewal and success to all students; and

*Whereas,* some students may encounter challenges or circumstances that hinder their academic progress and success during their initial enrollment at the university; and

*Whereas,* implementing an Academic Fresh Start Policy for students who have been absent from Ohio University for at least two years (24 calendar months) can offer a pathway for them to reengage with their academic pursuits and achieve their educational goals; and

*Whereas,* an Academic Fresh Start Policy can provide returning students with a second chance to demonstrate their academic abilities and dedication to their studies; and

*Whereas*, numerous peer institutions have successfully implemented Academic Fresh Start Policies with positive outcomes for returning students;

***Be it resolved*** that the following policy (“Fresh Start Policy”) shall be in force:

1. An undergraduate student returning to Ohio University after two or more years (a minimum of 24 calendar months) has the option at time at re-enrollment to request an academic “fresh start”.
2. A student re-enrolling with an academic fresh start is given an opportunity to have certain grades disregarded in the calculation of their cumulative GPA, as described in clause 3 below. This will occur in the following circumstances:
   1. the student achieves a minimum 2.00 grade point average on the first 12 hours attempted for letter grades after re-enrollment, subject to subclause ( c ) below, and
   2. the student remains in good standing status while completing the minimum hours, and
   3. if more than one semester is taken to reach 12 credits, the combined GPA of all semesters of enrollment after returning to the university must be 2.00 or greater.
3. Grades of F and D- earned in coursework completed during the student’s initial enrollment at Ohio University will remain on the transcript but will be excluded from the cumulative GPA calculation. The student’s academic record will indicate that a fresh start has been granted.
4. Students in selective admission or accredited programs will continue to be held to the admission/retention standards of their programs. Re-entry into the university does not guarantee re-entry into their program if they were dismissed or denied admission based on academic performance. Furthermore, programs with specific accreditation requirements must adhere to their accreditor requirements, which may require a student to declare a different major upon seeking an Academic Fresh Start.
5. The revised GPA arising from an Academic Fresh Start cannot be used to calculate eligibility for graduation honors, or membership in honor societies.
6. If a student elects for an Academic Fresh Start, then they must complete at least 30 additional credit hours beyond their prior enrollment before a degree is awarded. (Therefore some students may be closer to graduation without the fresh start.)
7. If a student elects for an Academic Fresh Start, then this designation cannot be rescinded.
8. The Academic Fresh Start option may be effected only once during a student’s academic career.
9. Academic Fresh Start may not be combined with any Academic Forgiveness policy.

***Be it further resolved*** that the Ohio University Faculty Senate calls upon the university administration to collaborate with academic units and relevant offices in the implementation of the preceding policy.

**Implementation Notes**

1. This policy gives students re-enrolling under a fresh start the same relief accorded to transfer students, where D- and F grades obtained at other institutions are not transcripted.
2. Students reenrolled under the Fresh Start Policy must still meet the financial aid qualitative and quantitative SAP requirements (using all previously enrolled semester data). Federal regulations do not recognize an institutional policy such as Fresh Start. Although Fresh Start affects cumulative grade point average, it has no impact on earned and attempted hours. All courses taken at the university will still be used for financial aid. Financial aid recipients will still have to adhere to the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) policy administered by the Student Financial Aid Office. Students who are granted a Fresh Start are not automatically cleared of any SAP issues. If interested in submitting a SAP appeal, students should contact the Student Financial Aid Office.