

## MEMO

TO: Academic Senate Executive Committee

FROM: Sharon A. Aiken-Wisniewski, Associate Professor – Career Line, ELP  
Chair for SACAP for 2018-19 on behalf of committee members

RE: Report on SACAP Activity for 2018-19

DATE: March 11, 2019

2018-19 Senate Advisory Committee on Academic Policy (SACAP) is reviewing a rule for the U of U Regulations Library on final exams, exploring policy on institutional credits for degree residency, and has been asked to review policy on thesis deadlines.

### Continuing Business from 2017-18

A. 2017-18 SACAP explored the policy that addressed final exams. After reviewing policy 6-100 III F, discussing final exams with colleges, reviewing policy at other PAC-12 institutions and dialoging with Registrar's Office and Bob Flores, the committee agreed to draft a rule for 6-100 of the U of U Regulations Library that will codify the policy & guidelines on the Registrar's page for final exam. A definition for final exam will be considered within this rule. At the April 2019 meeting, the SACAP committee members will discuss the drafted rule.

### New Business for 2018-19

B. Faculty and staff from the College of Humanities asked SACAP to explore the policy on the minimum institutional credits required for degree residency to complete a degree because currently impacting graduation for senior students engaged in non-supported Learning Aboard experiences. Current policy 6-101, III, D:

### **University Residency Requirement for Undergraduate Students**

There are two components to the University's Residency requirement ([Policy 6-101](#), Section III, part D):

- Component 1: All undergraduate candidates must earn at least 30 semester credit hours from the University of Utah
- Component 2: At least **20 of the last 30 semester** credit hours earned toward a student's degree must be earned from the University of Utah

Note: Although the residency requirement allows students to transfer up to 10 of their last 20 credits, students who are transferring credits during their last term should apply to graduate the following term to allow time for transcripts to arrive and be evaluated by the Office of Admissions.

Petition for exception to this policy:

<https://registrar.utah.edu/pdf/Residency-Exceptions.pdf>

- The issue emerged for students who are taking non-supported Learning Abroad Study Abroad opportunities that are more than 10 credits. Because these students must wait until they return from the Study Abroad, it delays their graduation. This is because the transfer credit from these experiences are not pre-determined thus the student must wait for the transcript to arrive and then have it reviewed. The concern is that the academic department often determines the actual credit transferred if the institution is eligible to transfer to the U of U. Is there a reason why pre-transfer agreement is not established before the non-supported Learning Abroad Study Abroad happens so that students are able to graduate upon return after completing experience? Does this policy discourage students from Study Abroad experiences? Does it delay graduation and incur more expense to student?
- Committee is reviewing possible options for addressing concern at April 2019. Such as additional options to achieve residency, reinstatement of Graduation Committee in Registrar's Office, and pre-approval process for non-supported Learning Abroad. When SACAP finalize will refer to Senate.

C. A request will be heard at the April 2019 meeting for reviewing policy for Thesis Dates and Deadlines.

D. We will have one more meeting in spring 2019 for a total of 3 meetings this year.

2018-19 Members:

Julia Franklin; Sarah Shippobotham; David Hill; Sharon Aiken-Wisniewski; Mohammad Mirfakhrai ; JULIE M BARKMEIER-KRAEMER; Robin Craig; Margarita B Cummings ; Rob Butters; bloganie@gmail.com; Brandon Dennison; Court Thomas