

MEMORANDUM

TO: Steering Committee
FROM: Committee on Academic Programs (CAP)
RE: Readmission-Conditional Policy - Requesting a change in scope of the charge
DATE: December 4, 2018

Background and Charge:

Steering asked CAP to review the referenced policy based on a standard 5-year review timeline. The policy has not been reviewed since its first approval by the Board of Trustees.

Recommendation:

Based on our initial work reviewing the Readmission-Conditional policy, CAP is recommending a change in scope of the charge given by the Steering Committee. Specifically, we recommend that the charge include the creation of a more comprehensive readmission policy that includes multiple readmission categories to TCNJ. Such a policy will consolidate, clarify, and increase transparency for the campus community.

CAP agrees that the current policy needs to be updated. It does not conform to current structure, references antiquated information, and poses risk for subjective and capricious decision making. Our initial investigation revealed that this policy is not known to most of the stakeholders questioned. Furthermore, policies, procedures, and guidelines published on the website and in the bulletin that are not fully aligned with each other or this policy and need to be reconciled. Finally, because some schools and programs have separate dismissal from the major and readmission policies, testimony will need to be solicited from these units. No current policy for other types of readmission is published.

A consolidated policy needs to take into account the multiple categories of readmission, which depend on the former student's standing when they left the college and how long the former student was separated. The length of separation needs to be considered for the relevancy of much older courses, and changes to a curriculum that may render moot some previous coursework. Such a consolidated policy must also clarify decision-making authority and all required process elements for considering readmission.

On a separate point, we also note that there is currently no policy to limit the time to degree at TCNJ and recommend this be addressed under separate consideration.