PROPOSED CHANGE IN TRANSFER CREDIT POLICY

At its December 3rd, 2009 meeting, the Curriculum Committee completed its consideration of a change in the transfer credit policy with regard to the C-grade. Among the issues considered were:

- Equal treatment for native and transfer students
- Transfer of credit for students whose sending institutions do not use plus and minus grades
- Credit status of C- grades for Muskingum students
- Impact of the current policy on recruitment of transfer students

As a result of these considerations, the Curriculum Committee recommends to the faculty that the transfer policy for C- grades be changed as follows in the Undergraduate Course Catalog (p. 39 in the 2009-10 Catalog):

“A minimum grade of C- is required for courses taken elsewhere to be accepted.”

Rationale

1. The “best practice” in transfer credit policy nationally is to apply the same credit standards to native and transfer students. This practice is reflected in the standards for transfer credit mandated for public institutions of higher education in Ohio by the Ohio Board of Regents. The OBR policy requires that public institutions award credit for any passing grade earned at another Ohio public college or university. This policy includes D grades. The Curriculum Committee wants to make it clear that it does not agree with awarding of credit for D grades. The Committee affirms its opinion that a grade of C- is the minimum acceptable grade for transfer credit.

2. The Committee recognized an inconsistency in the current transfer policy regarding C- grades. A student who transfers to Muskingum from a college or university which does not use plus or minus grades but whose performance in the course would have resulted in a grade of C- if the grade were available is awarded credit. Meanwhile, a student with the same course performance level at an institution with plus and minus grades will be denied transfer credit. This inequity will be corrected by the proposed policy change.

3. Muskingum students are not required to repeat a course in their major if they receive a grade of C- while transfer students are required to repeat the course under the current transfer policy. This can result in extended time for completion of degree requirements and perhaps, in some cases, additional educational costs.

4. Although not the primary consideration in the Committee’s discussion of the proposed policy change, the effect of the current C-grade transfer policy on the decisions of prospective students to enroll at Muskingum was part of the Committee’s discussion. Students who transferred to Muskingum in Fall 2009 lost credit for 19 courses (46 credit hours) due to current transfer credit policy. There is no reliable way to determine whether transfer of C- grades played a role in decisions not to attend Muskingum made by prospective transfers.

As a matter of record, the Curriculum Committee vote to approve the policy change was 8 in favor, 0 opposed, and one member abstaining due to a potential conflict of interest.