BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, High School Course Requirements for University Admission

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Current Board policy sets forth the high school course requirements for university admission (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 3* of the *Handbook*). Within this policy, a total of 13 units are required: Four units for English, three units for mathematics, three units for natural science, and three units for social science/studies. Additional requirements for university admission, including GPA and scores on the SAC and ACT, are included under *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 4*.

The requirements for mathematics (three units) have been historically interpreted to include at least Algebra I and higher level mathematic, which is typically Algebra II and another advanced mathematics course like geometry. Based on a recent review of the provision by staff, this policy proposal recommends a revision to the course requirements for mathematics that aligns with current institutional practice in admitting students to the universities.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 3* of the *Handbook* to clarify that the three units of high school mathematics must include Algebra I and higher level mathematics. In addition, specify that the higher level mathematics courses may include Algebra II and calculus in addition to geometry, trigonometry, pre-calculus, probability and statistics, and other advanced mathematics. Finally, clarify that the universities may evaluate high school transcripts to determine if the course content appropriately meets the course requirements under this section, which is also current practice.

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

This matter is brought forward following a recent discussion with the universities on admission practices, particularly as it relates to evaluating transcripts to ensure that mathematics requirements are met.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

- The revision is needed to ensure that the policy accurately reflects the existing mathematics requirements for university admission.

- School districts periodically update or revise curriculum and rename courses, often with non-traditional course names. While the specific names of these courses are not listed in the policy, the required course content may be actually be included. In addition, students from outside Nevada apply and submit transcripts with non-traditional course names. Universities currently review transcripts to ensure that the content of high school courses meet the requirements under *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 3* of the *Handbook*.

- Clarity and flexibility will benefit the students applying for admission, high school counselors and teachers, and the universities, while still maintaining the integrity of the existing requirements under Board policy, which are necessary for student success after admission.

POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been brought forward.

ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

Retain the existing policy, as written.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

- ❑ Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____   Chapter #_____   Section #_____
- **X** Amends Current Board Policy: *Title # 4 Chapter # 16 Section # 3*
- ❑ Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
- ❑ Other:_____
- **X** Fiscal Impact: Yes_____   No__**X**____
     Explain:_____

Section 3.   <u>High School Course Requirements for University Admission</u>

The following **_minimum_** high school course admission requirements [will] apply to freshman admission at a university [for students who graduate from high school in Spring 2002 or thereafter], in addition to the specific admission requirements for those institutions that appear elsewhere in this Chapter:

<u>High School Course(s)</u>	<u>Units</u>
English: Emphasis on composition, rhetoric, and American, English and world literatures	4
Mathematics: Algebra **_I and_** [or] higher level mathematics [, including first-and second-year algebra,] **_– higher level mathematics may include Algebra II,_** geometry, [analytic geometry], trigonometry, pre-calculus, **_calculus,_** probability and statistics and other advanced mathematics	3
Natural Science: _(lab or simulation)_ including biology, chemistry or physics, with at least two years in a laboratory science	3
Social Science/Studies: Including world history and geography, U.S. history, economics, government, or law	<u>3</u>
Total:	13

The universities may evaluate high school transcripts to determine if the course content appropriately meets the course requirements under this section.