BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER
Handbook Revision, Community College Graduation Requirements – Catalog Choice

BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

During the December 2013 meeting of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee, representatives from each institution presented respective strategies for recruiting, retaining and graduating adult learners and/or former students. Through that discussion, the Committee directed staff to work with the campuses on any policy revisions that would support the institutions in their efforts to graduate adult learners.

Board policy sets forth sets forth the requirements for graduation from an NSHE community college, including the catalog under which a student may choose to graduation (*Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25*). Under this policy, a student may select the catalog year governing requirements for graduation under the following circumstances:
   a. The year in which the student enrolled; or
   b. The year the student officially selects a program of study; or
   c. The year in which the student will complete the curriculum requirements for an associate degree or certificate of achievement.

In addition, if a degree is offered for the first time after a student has enrolled, the student may choose the catalog year in which the degree or major was first offered. However, the selected catalog may not be more than six years old at the time of graduation for students receiving an associate degree or certificate of achievement, and not more than ten years old at the time of graduation for students receiving a baccalaureate degree. The ten-year limitation is consistent with the ten-year limitation under *Nevada Revised Statutes* (NRS) 396.560 governing catalog choice for graduation for students attending a university or state college.

For students returning to college after a break in enrollment, changes in course catalogs since the student was enrolled may impede the student's ability to complete a degree or certificate. The attached policy proposal allows returning students at the community colleges under specified conditions to select an alternative catalog not more than 10 years old to facilitate and support these students in completing their degrees or certificates.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

Amend *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25* of the *Handbook* to provide that a returning student may elect to graduate under the catalog of the year in which the student enrolled before the student's break in enrollment if approved by the Academic Officer. The selected catalog may not be more than ten years old at the time of graduation for students receiving a baccalaureate degree. (See the attached policy proposal.)

IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee requested the institutions and staff examine policy changes that may support adult students returning to complete either education. The Academic Affairs Council supports the proposed revision.

BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:
- Supporting and facilitating returning adults to complete their degrees or certificates benefits not only the students themselves, but also the workforce for the State of Nevada.
- This policy proposal supports the work of the Board and NSHE to create a culture of complete.
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POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

None have been presented.

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

Retain the existing policy.

COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

❑ Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title #_____   Chapter #_____   Section #_____
X Amends Current Board Policy: *Title 4, Chapter 16, Section 25*
❑ Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter #_____ Section #_____
❑ Other:_____
❑ Fiscal Impact: Yes_____   No___**X**___
　　Explain:_____

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POLICY PROPOSAL
TITLE 4, CHAPTER 16, SECTION 25
Community College Graduation Requirements – Choice of Catalog for
Returning Students

Additions appear in ***boldface italics***; deletions are [~~stricken~~ and bracketed]

Section 25. Community College Requirements for Graduation [(~~Effective Fall 2012~~)]

The following requirements must be met by a student seeking to graduate from an NSHE community college:

1.   Each associate degree or certificate [~~of achievement~~] student is required to satisfy course requirements as defined in the college catalog.

2.   A student may select the catalog year governing requirements for graduation under the following circumstances:
    a.   the year in which the student enrolled; or
    b.   the year the student officially selects a program of study; or
    c.   the year in which the student will complete the curriculum requirements for an associate degree or certificate of achievement.

3.   If a degree is offered for the first time after a student has enrolled, the student may choose the catalog year in which the degree or major was first offered. [~~The~~] ***Except as otherwise provided in this section, the*** selected catalog may not be more than six years old at the time of graduation for students receiving an associate degree or certificate of achievement, and not more than ten years old at the time of graduation for students receiving a baccalaureate degree.

4.   ***A returning student may elect to graduate under the catalog of the year in which the student enrolled before the student's break in enrollment if approved by the Academic Officer. The selected catalog may not be more than ten years old at the time of graduation for students receiving a baccalaureate degree. For purposes of this subsection, "returning student" means a student who has not graduated from a NSHE or non-NSHE institution and who enrolls after a break in enrollment of one or more semesters from a NSHE institution.***

[4]*5.* A student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0.

[5]*6.* A student must complete a minimum of 15 semester credit hours within the college.

[6]*7.* A student must not have a financial or library obligation to the college.

[7]*8.* A student may earn multiple degrees and certificates of achievement provided all course and graduation requirements for each degree or certificate are fully satisfied as outlined in the college's course catalog.