

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

Office Of The Vice President for Student Affairs



Dr. David W. Parrott
*Executive Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and
Chief of Staff*

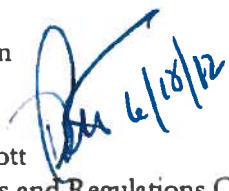
MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 18, 2012

TO: Dr. R. Bowen Loftin
President

FROM: Dr. David W. Parrott
Chair, Student Rules and Regulations Committee

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Texas A&M Student Rules

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely of Dr. David W. Parrott, is written over the 'TO' and 'FROM' lines. Next to the signature is the date '6/18/12' written in blue ink.

Attached please find proposed revision to the Texas A&M University Student Rules as approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee on June 15, 2012. These changes are for the following sections:

- 1.16.2
- 1.16.3
- 1.16.4
- 10.10.1

We are forwarding this recommendation for your review.

117 John J. Koldus Student Services Building
1256 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843-1256

Tel. 979.845.4728 Fax. 979.845.3320
studentaffairs.tamu.edu

Where Students Experience the Spirit of Aggieland

COMMITTEE REPORT – ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**April 2, 2012**

To: Michael Benedik, Speaker, Faculty Senate
Executive Committee, Faculty Senate

From: Brian Perkins, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Subject: Student Rules 1.16.2, 1.16.3, 1.16.4, and 10.10.1
(First Year Grade Exclusion (FYGE) and Q-Drop Policy)

Background:

Student Rule 10.10.1 allows any currently enrolled Texas A&M undergraduate student to exclude from his/her undergraduate degree and cumulative GPR calculations a grade of D, F, or U for a maximum of three courses during the first twelve months of enrollment. This provision, termed First-Year Grade Exclusion (FYGE), only applied to entering freshman and cannot be utilized by transfer students. Courses chosen for FYGE remain on the official transcript and are designed as excluded.

Student Rules 1.16.2, 1.16.3, and 1.16.4 provide additional guidelines for course withdrawal. All students, regardless of classification, are permitted to withdraw from a course (i.e. "Q-drop") without academic penalty through the 50th class day of a fall or spring semester. State law limits students to six Q-drops from all state institutions during their undergraduate career. Texas A&M students are only permitted three Q-drops, in addition to a maximum of three courses chosen for FYGE.

On February 22, 2012, the Student Senate of Texas A&M University passed Senate Bill S.B. 64-21, which requests, in part: 1) FYGE be eliminated; 2) the maximum number of Q-drops be increased from three to four; and 3) that the Q-drop deadline be extended from the 50th class day to the 60th class day.

The AOC Deans met in late March and concurred with the opinion of the Student Senate.

AAC met on March 26, 2012 to discuss this issue and ultimately voted unanimously (7-0) to the following recommendations:

Recommendation:

1. To eliminate Student Rule 10.10.1 and all other rules related to First Year Grade Exclusion and any policies related to FYGE by Fall 2012, or as soon as possible.
2. To change Student Rule 1.16 to permit up to four Q-drops for all TAMU undergraduates, regardless of transfer status, so long as this would not allow a student to exceed the six Q-drop maximum mandated by the State of Texas.
3. To change Student Rule 1.16.2, such as students are permitted to drop a course without academic penalty through the 60th class day of a fall or spring semester. No changes shall be made to the deadline for summer terms or summer semesters.

Rationale:

Student government argues, with compelling research, that FYGE subjects many students to long-term negative consequences. Even if courses excluded by FYGE are not calculated as part of the final GPR, the grades following FYGE remain on the official transcript. Many graduate and professional schools inform students that their GPR is being recalculated to include grades removed by FYGE and this is damaging chances of admission into post-graduate programs. FYGE remains largely unpopular among faculty as well.

Student government further argues that for 70% of all courses, less than 50% of the total points have been graded and returned at the 50th class day. By the 60th class day, however, at least 70% of all TAMU courses had given students an opportunity to earn at least 50% of the total points in the class. Thus, students request that the deadline to Q-drop be extended from the 50th class day to the 60th class day to provide students with a more representative view of their standing in a given course.

By changing these rules, students will only be permitted to drop four classes during their undergraduate career at TAMU. Extension of the Q-drop deadline should reduce the number of unnecessary Q-drops, as students may realize their performance is adequate to complete the course. Importantly, reducing the total number of course withdrawals from a maximum of six (FYGE + Q-drops) to four (Q-drops only) may positively contribute to increased graduate rates, although admittedly, the effect may be minimal.

Approved by Student Rules and Regulations Committee on 6/15/2012.
Previously approved by both Faculty Senate and the President. All three components approved rule change.