ARC Proposal

OSU Forgiveness Policy

The Academic Requirements Committee (ARC) has initiated this proposal based on specific student cases which deal with academic history. OSU currently has no policy of forgiveness. Students who return to the University after extended periods of absence are still evaluated based on their academic performance of many years earlier. The ARC proposes that the University establish a forgiveness policy that would allow students who return to OSU after an extended period to have their GPA reflect their new records only, rather than their old academic performance. This is not a policy to erase academic history. Grades would remain on the transcript and credit would still be given for courses passed. The University would simply not include portions of the previous performance in the overall GPA. This would allow students who have left school, matured, made life changes, and perhaps entered the workforce to start with a new record. These same students would then possess OSU GPAs that reflect their recent record, which would likely help them in the job market after graduation. Otherwise these students would begin their job search with GPAs reflecting their performance from many years earlier, which could cause them to be disqualified from positions for which they might otherwise be competitive.

The guidelines of this proposed policy are as follows:

-Students applying for OSU Forgiveness need to have been away from OSU for at least five continuous years. Students can take courses at other institutions or through OSU Distance Education during this period.

-Upon returning to OSU, students need to demonstrate improved academic performance before applying for OSU Forgiveness. This would require at minimum 2.5 GPA their first two terms back and a minimum of 24 credits to be considered. All credits earned since return to OSU will be included in the calculation.

-Students can request to apply OSU Forgiveness to three contiguous terms or additional contiguous terms for up to 48 total credits from their previous OSU record to be used under OSU Forgiveness.

-The terms selected for OSU Forgiveness must be forgiven in their entirety. Students may not select individual courses for OSU Forgiveness.

-As stated above, OSU Forgiveness will simply exclude the forgiven period from computation of GPA. The grades will remain on the transcript and credit would still be given for courses passed.