Mike,

The Academic Regulations Committee is requesting guidance in responding to an exception to AR 25.f.1. from Kreg Lindberg, Cascades Campus. The Committee’s email conversation suggests that his request represents a policy change that may be outside the limits of our responsibility. I have attached all related correspondence and ask that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee decide how they want us to proceed.

Thanks,
Jo Tynon, Chair
Academic Regulations Committee

From our meeting minutes of 3/3/2007
AR 25.f.1. Academic Residence

Kreg Lindberg asked that an exception be made for Cascades Campus in regard to AR 25.f.1. Specifically, he wrote:

Here at OSU-Cascades, all lower division courses are offered by Central Oregon Community College (C OCC). This arrangement was an integral part of the establishment of the Cascades Campus, but it has had unexpected consequences. For example, Academic Regulation 25.f.1 states:

A minimum of 45 of the last 75 credits must be completed while the student is in academic residence at OSU. "Academic Residence" is defined as OSU courses taken as a degree-seeking student of OSU or courses through one of the following approved special programs: Professional degree programs which require that the student enroll in another institution while finishing the bachelor’s degree at OSU or an international study program sponsored by the Oregon University System.

Currently, COCC is not considered "in residence" by OSU, so in practice this regulation requires that 45 of the last 75 credits be upper division (UD) when it comes to Cascades students. This UD requirement does not apply to Corvallis students, and thus it places an additional burden on Cascades students – they are not treated equally with Corvallis students. The current exemptions for professional degree programs and international study programs recognize special cases, and Cascades is similarly a special case warranting an exemption.

I would like to propose that the following sentence be added to the end of Academic Regulation 25.f.1: For the purpose of this Academic Regulation, courses taken at Central Oregon Community College by OSU Cascades Campus students will be considered "in residence."

While we understand the Cascades Campus/COCC agreement, we also worry about maintaining academic integrity in OSU degree programs. Changes in 2000 raised the last 60 credits that must be completed while the student is in academic residence
at OSU to the last 75 credits, which resulted in greater flexibility. We also note that eCampus courses DO count as courses taken in residence. If there are still difficulties, are there other options that can be pursued? We worry that making an exception for Cascade Campus could potentially open the door to accepting other community college credits in lieu of OSU upper division coursework. We view this as a major policy change and we are reluctant to move forward with this request. Jo will discuss this with Becky Johnson.

From: Tynon, Jo
Sent: Thursday, March 08, 2007 5:21 PM

Colleagues:

I did not get any reply from Becky Johnson, but she apparently sent our summary on to Kreg Lindberg. Here is what he sent to me. How do you wish to handle this?

Jo

-----Original Message-----
From: Lindberg, Kreg
Sent: Tuesday, March 06, 2007 7:09 PM
To: Tynon, Jo
Subject: AR 25.f.1. Academic Residence

Greetings Jo,

I understand that the issue of academic residence and the Cascades Campus/COCC agreement was discussed at last week's academic regs meeting. I understand that concern was raised at that meeting regarding accepting community college credits in place of OSU UD credits. I also understand that eCampus courses were presented as a potential solution to this issue. By way of clarification, I'd like to note the following.

1. In my experience to date at OSU, I find that most students strongly prefer on-campus courses over online courses. More importantly, very few courses in the ORLT curriculum are offered by ECampus. The only one that comes to mind is FOR 352. Thus, ECampus courses are not a solution for ORLT -- and probably not a solution for other Cascades programs.

2. I do not believe the proposed change has any effect on the balance between lower division and upper division coursework for ORLT or other programs at Cascades. The key issue is sequencing. The effect of the current policy is that Cascades students are less able than Corvallis students to do LD coursework in their junior and senior years. This is problematic on both philosophical and practical grounds.

Philosophically, I do not believe this restriction should apply to Cascades students when it does not also apply to Corvallis students (the latter can do as many LD courses late in the program as they choose, because LD courses in Corvallis are "in residence").

Practically, there are many transfer students at Cascades, and these students still need to complete both LD and UD program coursework. From a scheduling perspective, it is impractical to require such students to first complete all remaining LD coursework and then complete all UD coursework. The result of the current policy is to discourage transfer students, and I do not believe either Cascades or OSU as a whole wishes to discourage students from transferring to OSU.
I'd be happy to discuss this further, but the key point is that a change in the residence policy will not lead to a change in the balance between LD and UD requirements in programs. Nor will it change the university requirement of 60 UD credits.

Thanks to you and the committee for pursuing this matter.

Kreg Lindberg

From: Merickel, Mark
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 7:21 AM

Jo.

I would suggest that we have done all that we can regarding this request at this time. It would be helpful to get the input and comments from other Faculty Senate committees that have purview related to this policy. I think it will be helpful to have all email associated with this request for a policy change regarding the "in residence" requirement in undergraduate studies at Cascades Campus be forwarded to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Curriculum Council for discussion. I see that Michael is in the loop now and that was needed. Other interested groups regarding this request may include the Academic Advising Council and the "parent" college/department for the Outdoor Recreation Leadership and Tourism program.

This "in residence" rule was changed in 2000 to reflect more flexibility for the students and programs. But, if I understand the request correctly, it appears that this requested policy change would result in 100-200 level courses being taught by the COCC faculty/instructors to apply as OSU "in residence" credits to meet this specific requirement for an OSU undergraduate degree completed at the Cascades Campus. I am not sure what body of the Faculty Senate should address this specifically, but I think a decision to let 100-200 level COCC courses being taught by COCC faculty/instructors count as OSU "in residence" goes beyond our committee's purview. At a minimum, we need others around the table when this is next discussed.

Just my early morning thoughts...

Mark Merickel

From: Kuo, Kent
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 11:38 AM

Colleagues,

I second Mark's email and comments. I tend to agree with the committee's recent findings that an exception to the academic residency for COCC establishes a precedent that bears careful consideration. If we do this for COCC, how come we will not do it for other Degree Partnership Program participants/campuses. I think this opens the door in a way that may compromise the intent of the academic residency requirements.

Additionally, most degree programs at other institutions require between 66% and 75% of the final "X" number of courses be taken in residence at the institution granting the degree. OSU has been very generous in dropping that requirement to 60% as a means of qualifying for an OSU degree. Most (if not all) of our sister institutions within OUS require 45 of the last 60 units to be taken in residence (or 75%).
Thanks, Kent.

From: Merickel, Mark  
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2007 12:59 PM

Thanks Kent.

I would like to add to my earlier statement that if the request from Cascades is to have Cascades Campus designated as "in residence" and all other policies will still apply (e.g., the 60 credits of courses are taught by OSU faculty or "approved" OSU faculty at Cascades and/or on the OSU Corvallis campus) then I would most likely change my position on this. If it is ONLY about the OSU Cascades Campus location...then I believe I would consider supporting this request.

Mark Merickel

From: Desiree Tullos [mailto:tullosd@engr.orst.edu]  
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2007 10:23 AM

Hi Jo,

My initial thoughts are that it sounds like we would be sacrificing some of the rigor of an OSU degree by making this change, but as I missed the initial discussion and haven't spent enough time catching up with the subsequent discussions, I'm not sure that my thoughts are worth much more than you paid for them....

Thank you,  
Desiree