**Committee Name:** Admissions and Academic Policies Committee (AAPC)

**Chair:**  Jeanne M. Lorentzen

**Subject:**  AAPC Annual Report to the Academic Senate 2015-2016

**Members:** Michael Crum, Gerri Daniels, Keith Ellis (joined AAPC Winter 2016) Mary Etchison, Jim Gadzinski, Chris Greer, Heather Isaacson, Jennifer Myers-Jezylo, Catherine Oliver (Secretary) Kim Rotundo, (Laura Soldner retired at the end of Fall 2015) Ruth Watry.

Non-voting member: Katy Morrison (Coordinator of Academic Support Services)

AAPC met three times during Fall 2015 (9/25, 10/23 11/6) and thus far three times during Winter 2016 (1/29, 3/11 and 4/8). AAPC is scheduled to meet on April 22, for the final meeting of the Winter 2016 semester. Subcommittees for processing emergency appeals between semesters during summer 2015 and once during winter break 2015-2016.

**Academic Appeals**

A major part of the committee’s activity is to hear appeals for readmission by students who have been suspended or dismissed from NMU. The committee as a whole (or designated members during breaks) hears and considers each appeal. The Dean of Students is available for emergency appeals and submits a report to the committee on those actions. The totals for the appeal hearings for the past year were:

Appeals Granted

Summer Break, May 18 - Aug 8          41 Appeals        22 Granted

Fall 2015, Aug, 19 - Dec 12                 11 Appeals          4 Granted

Winter Break, January 6               28 Appeals        13 Granted

Winter 2016, Jan. 11 - April 30 7 Appeals 3 Granted

**Academic and Admission Policy Considerations:** AAPC forwarded three recommended motions to the Senate during the 2015-2016 academic year.

**1. Add an additional test as another acceptable demonstration of English language proficiency.**

The proposal noted that non-native speakers of English must prove an adequate level of English language proficiency for admission into an academic program. English language proficiency for admission can be demonstrated in one of the following ways:

\*English proficiency tests for undergraduate admission: TOEFL - minimum score of 61 iBT/173 CBT/500 PBT, IELTS – minimum overall band score of 6.0, and MELAB – minimum score of 69. It proceeded to recommend that NMU will recognize the results of the iTEP Academic-Plus test as another acceptable demonstration of English language proficiency for undergraduate admission to undergraduate degree programs. A score of 3.7 or higher on the iTEP Academic-Plus test will be deemed acceptable for undergraduate admission. The iTEP Academic-Core test results will not be accepted for admission purposes. The AAPC voted unanimously to recommend this proposal.

Senate approval for this recommendation was obtained on 11-15-15. Effective Fall 2016.

**2. Proposal to Change Degree Requirements**

There are four current degree requirements for which revisions were proposed:

1) Changing the minimum credits required for a baccalaureate degree from 124 to 120.

2) Changing the minimum credits required for an associate’s degree from 62 to 60.

3) Removing the limitation that students may receive only one degree per commencement if they simultaneously meet the requirements for another degree at a different level.

4) Combining and re-defining of the certificate and vocational diploma categories.

All four of these degree requirements are not in line with currently accepted practices and present unnecessary roadblocks to students pursuing their degree(s). The AAPC membership voted unanimously to recommend this proposal.

Senate approval for this recommendation was obtained on 12-01-15. Effective Fall 2016.

**3. Academic Proficiency Proposal**

It was proposed that the academic proficiency policy be changed to allow a period of Warning Probation (WP) for some students before being placed on Academic Probation (AP) and to bring into consistency all proficiency standards. Being that the majority of these students are now advised by the Academic and Career Advisement Center (ACAC), they will be provided with additional opportunities to become better students (the ACAC works with students to improve their study skills and have reintroduced a study skills workshop series in coordination with Centralized Advising). A majority of the AAPC voted to recommend this proposal.

Senate approval for this recommendation was obtained on 12-01-15. Effective December 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne M. Lorentzen, Ph.D.

AAPC Chair 2015-2016