

## **Resolution Proposing a Limited First Year Academic Forgiveness Policy (17/2)**

**WHEREAS,** First-year undergraduate students should be encouraged to explore new disciplines and challenge their intellectual (or academic) boundaries without being afraid to fail; and

**WHEREAS,** Undergraduate students who, during their first year, experience stress due to the increased academic rigor and other college pressures should be entitled to carefully circumscribed academic relief; and

**WHEREAS,** Undergraduate students who encounter unexpected economic hardship, family difficulties, or other barriers to academic success in their first year on campus should similarly be entitled to carefully circumscribed academic relief; and

**WHEREAS,** Studies show that first-generation and international undergraduate students are more likely to initially struggle with the rigors of college course work; and

**WHEREAS,** Undergraduate students in their first year occasionally set unrealistic and unattainable expectations for themselves; **NOW, THEREFORE**

### **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE FACULTY SENATE OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

That the Faculty Senate hereby recommends that the following paragraphs be included in the University Bulletin, effective with the Fall 2017 semester, subject to review within three years:

#### **First-Year Academic Forgiveness Policy**

Undergraduate students are eligible to repeat for credit one course, taken at GW during their first academic year (first semester for transfer students), in which they received a grade of D+ (1.3) or below. A student may repeat a course under this policy at any time during their enrollment at GW; however, a course is not eligible for this policy if the student has taken a subsequent course for which the initial course is a prerequisite. The student's registration, including the repeated course, may not exceed 17 credits in the semester in which the course is repeated; students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science may not exceed 19 credits.

Under this policy, the original grade remains on the transcript until the student repeats the course. Once the course is repeated, a permanent notation replaces the grade for the first attempt of the course in the semester in which it was taken. The grade earned in the repeated course appears on the transcript in the semester in which the course was repeated. Only the grade earned for the repeat enrollment is factored into the student's cumulative grade-point average. The grade for the repeat enrollment is the final grade for the course, regardless of whether it is above or below the original grade.

Faculty Senate Committee on Educational Policy, with the support of the GW Student Association  
January 13, 2017

Adopted as amended by the Faculty Senate February 10, 2017