

Proposition 05-13/14: Modification of the Late Registration Period

Sponsors: Sam Christensen (NMSU-Carlsbad), Ron McNeel (NMSU-Alamogordo), Richard Gutierrez (NMSU-Grants), Elizabeth Miller (Library), Stuart Munson-McGee (ACES)

Proposed Committee:

Actual Committee Assignment: Faculty Affairs, Dr. Michael DeMers, Chair

Proposition: New Mexico State University currently allows students to add a course up to two weeks following the first day of class. **It is proposed that the open add period in which students may add a course without the instructor's permission end at the close of business on the second day after the beginning of the semester. After that, courses may not be added without the written permission of the instructor.**

Faculty has and should always have the option of allowing students to add late on a case-by-case basis. This policy change would not alter that.

This proposition does not address the timeline students have to drop a course.

Rationale: Mounting evidence points to late registration as a contributing factor in reducing student success. Additionally it creates an undue burden on faculty, especially in project-based classes. At NMSU students are able to miss, potentially, four class periods at the beginning of the semester due to the late registration policy. Students missing a **substantial portion** of a course require additional instruction time outside of class in order to complete the course successfully.

Additionally, knowing that a class roster will likely change over the first three or four class periods creates a disincentive for faculty to introduce rigor into the course until after the add date has passed.

According to preliminary results from the office of Institutional Research at NMSU, our students who register after the first class period have a higher failure rate than students who enroll on or before the first day of class.

Nationally, research about retention and late registration concur that late registration has a significant negative impact on course completion and retention.

According to Banion in the 2012 August/September issue of *Community College Journal*, 35% of students who registered late were retained the following semester compared to 80% of on-time registrants. The *Journal* also sighted a 2007 study which showed a 44% failure rate by students who registered late, compared to 17% of on-time registrants.

In the report *A Matter of Degrees*, the Center for Community College Student Engagement recommends that universities reduce or drop the late registration to increase student success.

While many Universities still maintain a late registration policy, the two week period offered by NMSU is longer than most. With data showing little positive effects of late registration, the proposal recommends that the NMSU system revise the policy.

Banion, T., (2012). "Late Registration: May it Rest in Peace," *Community College Journal*, **83** (1), p 26-31.

The Center for Community College Student Engagement, (2012). *A Matter of Degrees: Promising Practices for Community College Student Success (A First Look)*, Austin, TX: The University of Texas at Austin, Community College Leadership Program, p 8.