



To: Faculty Council

From: Professor L. L. Diosady
Chair, Committee on Examinations

Date: November 26, 2008

Item: Proposed Changes to the Promotional Regulations impacting the
Transitional Program (T-Program)

Recommendation:

That the changes to the promotion regulations concerning new first year students in 1F outlined below be approved.

- That the minimum 1F session average allowing new first year students to enrol in the T-Program in 1W be changed from 45% to 50%.
- That new first year students with a 1F session average between 45% and 50% be permitted to return to repeat a subsequent 1F on **Probation (PRO1)**.
- That new first year students with a 1F session average between 55% and 60% be required to repeat specific courses as decided by the Chair, First Year and the T-Program Coordinator.

Highlights:

Data has shown that since the fall of 2002 less than 7% of students who earned a 1F session average of less than 50% have graduated. Furthermore, since 2004, on average half of the students who earned between 45% and 50% in 1F and proceed to 1W in the T-Program were successful in that session. In contrast, the group of students who repeated the 1F session in its entirety were successful on average 80% of the time.

We recommend that the promotional regulations be changed to allow only students with a 1F session average between 50% and 60% to participate in the T-Program. Students with a 1F session average between 45% and 50% should be permitted to repeat 1F when next offered.

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Secondly, students in the past few years that have 1F session averages between 55% and 60% have been strongly encouraged to repeat courses most relevant to their engineering program in which their marks have fallen between 50% and 55% even though this is not required by the current regulations. The Chair, First Year and the T-Program Coordinator regard the change to make this requirement mandatory to be desirable and reflective of the current practice.

Closing Remarks:

These changes would bring the regulations better in line with current practice, while improving the chances of students to succeed in First Year, through to graduation.

Financial Implications:

There are no significant financial resources required to implement this proposal.