The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

SUBJECT: Academic Record Symbols and Grade Point Average - Satisfactory Progress (SP) Grade (Second Reading)		Item Number: 2.3	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Academic Affairs	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	*Pamela D. Walker, Vice Chancellor*	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	*Erik Skinner, Interim Chancellor*	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: This item is a second reading to revise California Code of Regulations, title 5, section 55023 *Academic Record Symbols and Grade Point Average*. The purpose of the revision is to add a new evaluative grade of Satisfactory Progress (SP) in order to track the progress of students enrolled in noncredit courses and provide students with additional feedback on their progress.

BACKGROUND: The current grades available for noncredit courses are limited to Pass and No Pass; however, because students can take multiple terms to complete a single noncredit course, they may not earn either a Pass or No Pass in a given term. Thus, there is no mechanism to collect data on students who are making progress in their noncredit courses, nor for students to see that they are making progress. This change provides the SP grade as an option for colleges with noncredit courses, but its use would not be mandatory.

This change is the culmination of multiple discussions at the Systems Advisory Committee on Curriculum, as well as Academic Senate resolutions 14.01 and 14.02, which incorporate the work and support the recommendations of the Noncredit Accountability Task Force and the Association of Community and Continuing Education (ACCE).

RECOMMENDED ACTION: The Board of Governors is asked to adopt the following resolution:

Be it Resolved

The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, acting pursuant to Education Code sections 66700, 70901(c) and 70901.5, hereby:

- accepts the comments and proposed responses to the proposed regulatory action;
- approves the proposed regulation changes;
- directs the Chancellor to file the regulations with the Secretary of State and submit the regulations to the Office of Administrative Law for printing unless the Department of Finance determines the regulations would create a state-mandated local program cost and is unable to certify to the Board of governors and the Legislature that a source of funds is available to reimburse that cost (see Education Code section 70901.5(a)(6));
- authorizes the Chancellor to take any necessary ministerial action to process these regulations; and
- adopts the regulations effective thirty days after filing with the Secretary of State and submission of the regulations to the Office of Administrative Law.

The proposed regulations are presented to the Board of Governors for approval and adoption. The Board of Governors held a public hearing in May and has responded to comments.

ANALYSIS: The addition of SP provides colleges another option for evaluative grades for non-credit courses. The option of the SP grade allows colleges to more accurately report student success as this reporting would be based on noncredit practitioner input and on student learning (rather than student attendance); this, in turn, allows another means for documenting students as they move from noncredit to credit programs. Finally, the SP grade provides students with a tangible measure of their progress that allows them to monitor their progress, both of which are supported by current educational research and can be an encouragement for students to matriculate in various higher education programs. A two-year pilot study to determine the pros and cons of officially reporting success in noncredit coursework found overwhelming support for noncredit progress indicators, including the addition of the SP grade; this support was also shown in a survey of California noncredit practitioners.

ATTACHMENT: The proposed regulation changes are included as attachment 1; a summary of comments received is included as attachment 2.