August 28, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Associate Deans, Chairs, and Directors

FROM: John W. Nicklow
Provost and Vice Chancellor

RE: New Forgiveness Policy, Effective January 2, 2013

Attached to this memorandum is the University's new Forgiveness Policy, which becomes effective January 2, 2013, a full semester earlier than originally envisaged for the next catalog year (2013-14).

As you will note, this policy provides more flexibility in the calculation of the g.p.a. required for graduation in all undergraduate programs. This flexibility will enable a number of students to finish degrees that they have been working towards for many years without reaching the 2.0 g.p.a. they need.

We expect that these students will be better advised this Fall for their Spring classes with this new policy in mind. Consequently, the Chancellor has authorized the earlier start date to address these students' concerns about completing their degrees in a more timely manner.

If you have any questions about this policy and its implementation, please contact Jim Carl in the Admissions Office. Thank you very much for your support of our students' success.

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Attachment

c Rita Cheng, Chancellor
Tiffany Spencer, Director, Registrar's Office
Jim Carl, Associate Director, Undergraduate Admissions
MEMORANDUM

TO: John W. Nicklow
   Provost and Vice Chancellor

FROM: Jim Allen
       Associate Provost for Academic Programs

RE: New Forgiveness Policy

As you know, the Chancellor approved recently for the 2013-14 undergraduate catalog a long list of revised academic policies. Many of these were framed with an eye to enrollment management as well as best practices at other institutions comparable to SIU Carbondale.

A number of Associate Deans, who are working closely with students seeking reinstatement for the Fall semester, have indicated that one policy in particular would make their work much easier and more effective. This is the new Forgiveness Policy. It increases the number of hours from 10 to 13 that students can have removed from the calculation of their cumulative g.p.a. to determine their eligibility for graduation. Offsetting an extra 3 hours of D or F can make a critical difference for many students who have earned many hours but still have not completed the requirements for a degree.

The consensus of the Associate Deans, and others working to move students towards degree completion, is that a January 2013 start date for the new Forgiveness Policy would enable them to calculate more precisely the number of additional hours that students would need to take successfully to reach the graduation threshold. Given the renewed emphasis of degree completion to Performance-Based Funding and to the IBHE’s metrics of “underperforming” programs, this earlier implementation of the new policy will affect dozens of students just this Spring.

With this memorandum, I strongly recommend that you share with the Chancellor this opportunity for more students to finish their degree programs in a timely fashion. It makes good practical as well as policy sense since many students will benefit from the change sooner rather than later.

John Nicklow, Provost & VC

Rita Chang, Chancellor