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To: [Keri Nikolajewski](#); [Angela Palmer](#); [Winter Lipson](#)
Subject: Public Comment for the Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee, September 8, 2022
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Lynwood Johnson

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

September 8, 2022

ARSA item #8, 9/8/2022 (Comments also applicable to BOR #22, 9/8-9/2022)

No Position stated – Concerned or Neutral

Preface: My comments are based in my experience as an Academic Advisor at UNR, a role I have been in for over 8 years now. However, the comments below are my own, and should not be construed to represent UNR's position on this matter.

According to the briefing paper for agenda item #8, part of the origin of the update to graduation requirements stems from a student complaint. Specifically, the complaint is in regards to the stipulation, "A minimum of 60 units must be taken at a 4-year institution." In the next paragraph, the briefing paper indicates that this language specifies a further limit on the amount of transfer credits based on institution type.

I'm not privy to what the student's issue was. However, I can say with confidence that this provision is commonly misconstrued to mean that UNR only allows 60 units to transfer from community colleges and apply to a bachelor's degree. The same paragraph indicates that a student could transfer up to 90 units from the state college. Neither is the case. The provision is merely a requirement to earn 60 units minimum at a 4-year, and does not exclude units earned elsewhere from being used.

In practice, a student's academic advising report (which tracks if a student has met requirements to earn a degree) takes into account all course credit on record—to which all transferable units are uploaded.

I have worked with transfer students from NSHE community colleges that brought more than 60 transferable units, and all were applied to degree requirements where they fit. In one exceptional case, I had a student with 200+ units from several junior colleges (NSHE and out-of-state), which were all accepted. But these students still needed to complete 60 units from a 4-year school.

So I believe the rationale behind this policy change has a flaw. However, the proposed policy doesn't appear to affect status quo at UNR.