Committee: Educational Policy  
Board of Trustees  
Date of Meeting: March 21, 2007  
April 18, 2007  

Agenda Item: Proposed Amendment to Policy 3.16 International Baccalaureate Credit (Second Reading)  

- X Proposed Policy Change  
-  Approvals Required by Policy  
-  Other Approvals  
-  Monitoring  

Scheduled Presenter(s):  
Linda L. Baer, Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic & Student Affairs  
Cyndy Crist, System Director  

Outline of Key Points/Policy Issues:  

The policy requires all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to grant credit for scores of 4 or higher on International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations as specified by MS120B.13. This reflects two changes from current policy, which specifies a score of 5 or higher for credit awards and only recognizes Standard Level examinations for credit when included in an IB diploma. Significant research and discussion about appropriate practices for awarding credits for some individual Standard Level examinations has informed the proposed policy changes and development of a new procedure to guide implementation of the revised policy.  

Background Information:  

These policy revisions were made to comply with MS120B.13 and to ensure that the language of the policy was clear and precise.  

Cite policy requirement, or explain why item is on the Board agenda:  

This is the second reading of a revised policy for granting credit for students who complete IB examinations. The policy assures consistency of credit awards for all students in our system and complies with MS120B.13 for eligible high school students.
INTRODUCTION
The Office of the Chancellor is submitting a revised policy for granting credit for students who complete an International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma or individual IB examinations.

BACKGROUND
The Minnesota 2005 K-12 omnibus bill included a provision directing the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to grant credit to students who achieve a score of 4 or higher on “the International Baccalaureate (IB) examination.” This requires a change in Board Policy 3.16, which specifies that a score of 5 or higher is required in order for a student to receive college/university credit and that credit shall not be awarded for individual Standard Level examinations.

The IB program is relatively small in Minnesota, and many of our institutions have never been asked to award IB credits. In addition, the IB program is a complex one, consisting of two levels of courses and tests (Higher Level and Standard Level) and including an option for students to combine six tests to earn an IB diploma.

Revisions to Policy 3.16 and development of a new Procedure 3.16.1 were delayed in order to conduct research into the two levels of examinations; policies and practices of other colleges and universities; and the expectations and experiences of secondary IB teachers. While this research was being conducted, all colleges and universities in the system were advised to comply immediately with the statutory provisions regarding IB.

The revision of current IB policy and development of a new procedure to guide its implementation have taken place as part of a broader effort to ensure consistency throughout the system in granting credit for prior learning to our students.

CONSULTATION
Consultation has occurred or will occur as follows:

- Meetings of Chief Academic Officers, Chief Student Affairs Officers, and Deans, 10/27/05, 5/24/06
- Academic and Student Affairs Policy Council, 11/15/05; 1/25/06; 2/7/07; 4/5/07.
- Reviewed at MSCF Meet and Confer, 12/8/05; 3/22/07.
- Reviewed at IFO Meet and Confer, 12/8/05; 3/3/06, 4/07/06; 2/23/07.
- Reviewed at MSUAASF Meet and Confer, 2/9/07.
- Reviewed at System Student Affairs Conference, 3/02/06.
• Reviewed at Leadership Council, 3/7/06; 3/6/07; 4/3/07.
• Reviewed by Minnesota IB Coordinators, 3/16/06
• Review of standard level math tests by a sample of two-year and year mathematics faculty, 7/06–9/06

FORMAL APPROVAL PROCESS

The proposed policy amendment is being submitted for a second reading to the Board of Trustees at the April 2007 meeting.

RECOMMENDED COMMITTEE ACTION

The Educational Policy Committee recommends that the Board of Trustees adopt the following motion:

RECOMMENDED MOTION

The Board of Trustees approves the amendment to Policy 3.16 International Baccalaureate Credit.
3.16 International Baccalaureate Credit

Part 1. Purpose. The purpose of this policy is to establish common consistent practices among all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities for awarding credit based on students performance on who have completed an International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations or completion of an IB diploma in high school.

Part 2. Definitions.

Subpart A. The International Baccalaureate (IB) program. The IB program is an internationally recognized program through which a secondary students completes a comprehensive curriculum of rigorous study and demonstrates performance on IB examinations. The examination for the diploma covers six subjects, three or four of which must be at the higher level and others at the subsidiary level. Students may present a full IB diploma or a certificate recognizing specific higher level or subsidiary standard level test examination scores.

Subpart B. Higher level IB examinations. Higher level IB examinations assess work for higher level courses which generally involve significant breadth and depth of learning. They represent a recommended 240 teaching hours.

Subpart C. Standard level IB examinations. Standard level IB examinations assess work completed at a narrower or less rigorous level than the higher level examinations. They represent a recommended 150 teaching hours.

Subpart D. IB Diploma. The IB diploma covers six subjects and is awarded to students who achieve specified scores on three higher level and three standard level examinations or four higher level and two standard level examinations.

Part 3. Credits for International Baccalaureate Policy. Minnesota State Colleges and Universities shall grant credit for scores of 4 or higher on individual IB examinations or successful completion of the IB diploma according to Procedure 3.16.1 International Baccalaureate Credit.

1. Students who complete an IB diploma with a score of 30 or higher shall be offered 12 quarter or 8 semester credits for each of three higher level examinations, plus 3 quarter or
2 semester credits for each of the subsidiary exams, for a total of 45 quarter or 30 semester credits.

2. Credits shall be transcribed according to the same rules as those used for Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Where a test covers material that is substantially similar to an existing university course, credit for the course shall be awarded. Where a test covers material that is deemed to be college level but is not substantially similar to an existing course, elective credits shall be awarded in appropriate departments.

3. No credit shall be given for subsidiary level exams other than those included as part of the IB diploma as described above, but students may receive credits as above for any higher level exams with a score of 5 or higher.