

Longwood University Faculty Senate

## **PROPOSAL/POLICY COVER SHEET**

This cover sheet is intended to provide information to members of the Faculty Senate about a new proposal/policy or about revisions to an existing proposal/policy. **If you are proposing a new policy, then attach the text of the policy to this form. If you are proposing a change to an existing policy, then attach the text of the current policy with any deleted language marked by a strikethrough and with new language marked by an underline. If you are deleting a policy, then attach the text of the policy to be deleted.**

**COMMITTEE(S)** that authored or sponsored this proposal: Dr. Jason Milne

**TOPIC:** Graduation Policy

**BACKGROUND (Provide a brief statement describing the origins of this proposal, the nature of the problem it addresses, and the work completed to devise the proposal):**

**Current Policy (Page 53 of the 2014-2015 Undergraduate Catalogue**  
**“Only those students who have completed the degree requirements established by Longwood will participate in commencement ceremonies. Diplomas will be mailed to students normally within eight weeks of commencement.”**

**This proposal is derived from a discussion among faculty and the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs about the eligibility of students to walk in the graduation ceremony. Currently, Longwood students must complete all the requirements of a degree in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. Many students, who have few credits left in the completion of their degree, finish up those requirements over the summer and then must wait an entire year in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. This is often frustrating for students who are in good standing with the university and have but a few credit hours left to take. Many students wish to participate in the ceremony with their academic cohort.**

**SUMMARY OF NEW POLICY OR PROPOSED CHANGES OR DELETIONS TO AN EXISTING POLICY (Provide a brief list or statement describing the content of the policy or the proposed changes or deletions):**

**New Policy:**

**Graduation**

**“Students who are in good academic standing with the university, have seven (7) or fewer academic credits remaining for the completion of their degree, and have enrolled in the courses required for graduation for the subsequent summer or fall academic semesters shall be permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. Those students who have seven (7) credit hours or fewer remaining to complete their degree must also receive approval from their department chair and the**

**registrar in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. Diplomas will be mailed to students normally within eight weeks of commencement or the completion of their degree requirements.”**

**RATIONALE FOR THE POLICY OR PROPOSED CHANGES** (Provide a brief statement as to why the new policy, the changes, or the deletion is needed):

**Graduation is an important celebration of a student’s career. This policy will serve to create goodwill between the university and alumni. Additionally, this policy brings the university in line with other universities in Virginia by allowing students to participate in the graduation ceremony before full completion of their degree.**

Date submitted to Senate Executive Committee for Consideration:

\_\_\_\_\_

Action(s) Taken:

Date first read at Faculty Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

Action(s) Taken:

Date final action taken by Faculty Senate: \_\_\_\_\_

Final action(s) Taken: