Proposal:

Amend readmit policy requirements to forego petition requirement for students who leave institution due to circumstance beyond their control.

Requested effective date:

Spring 2021

Background:

At present if a student in good standing leaves the institution and attempts readmission to previous major, they may be required to petition for readmission if their USC GPA does not meet readmission minimum, even if their GPA met progression requirements at time of departure.

Current Policy

An application for readmission must be submitted by any former student who wishes to return to the University after missing a major (fall or spring) semester. Summer sessions do not count as a major semester in this instance. The readmit application is available

at http://www.sc.edu/admissions. Readmiss ion to the University and to the program in which the student was previously enrolled is not automatic. An interview may be requested and some basis for a favorable decision may be required.

The University of South Carolina's minimum USC GPA requirement for readmission is 2.0, but some colleges and schools have a higher requirement. Please review http://www.sc.edu/admissions for

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students (including probationary or nondegree candidates) are not considered for "readmission" because these students were not fully admitted to the University originally.

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Students who leave the university due to complications related to public health emergency (e.g., COVID-19) or military service and have not attempted any college credits during their absence will be readmitted based on degree progression

If special students wish to return to the University as degree-seeking candidates, they must apply for regular admission as freshmen or transfer students, furnishing all official transcripts and any entrance test scores which may be required.

Students who leave the University in good standing, miss one or more major semesters, and attend another institution while away must submit the application for readmission and official transcripts of all college-level work attempted during their absence from the University. Such applicants must meet the same requirements as transfer students.

A student who leaves the University on suspension must apply for readmission upon completion of the period of suspension and qualify for readmission to the major program requested. To attempt to return to the University prior to the completion of the suspension period requires:

- 1. an application for readmission and a petition for reinstatement if a major semester has been missed; or
- 2. a petition for reinstatement if the attempt is being made after notification of suspension but prior to missing a major semester. A petition for reinstatement is made to the University college from which the student was suspended.

If students attend another college-level institution while suspended from the University, they must maintain a satisfactory average at that institution in order to retain the privilege of being considered for readmission at the conclusion of their suspension. The University does not transfer credit earned during a period of suspension, but the quality of grades could affect the decision on readmission.

requirements. The absence is limited to 2 major semesters.

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Justification:

Changing the policy will ensure that students who are required to leave the institution for reasons beyond their control are not subjected to the time intensive and potentially confusing readmission/petition process, even when they were eligible to continue in their major at time of departure.

This process is military friendly. Additionally, it serves students who may have had to depart the institution due to health/pandemic-related emergency (i.e., contracted illness, cared for someone with illness)