Non-Consent Agenda Item:  
Approval to create the **Second Start Readmission Program**

**Effective Term:**  
Fall 2016 for all former and current undergraduates, regardless of their Catalog year.

**Policy Proposal:**

*Undergraduates seeking readmission to The University of Arizona after an absence of at least three years may apply for the Second Start Readmission Program. When a returning student applies for readmission through Second Start, the student’s application and prior academic record are reviewed by the academic college offering the student’s program of study. If accepted by the college and the University, students are also accepted into the Second Start Program.*

Once the conditions of Second Start are met, all grades earned for UA course work prior to the student’s absence will be disregarded in the student’s cumulative GPA; however, courses in which a C or better was earned will continue to fulfill degree requirements.

**Criteria for Enactment of Second Start**

To qualify for the program, the following conditions must be met:

1) The student is pursuing readmission into an undergraduate degree program;
2) At the time the request is filed, a minimum of three years must have elapsed since the most recent UA course work was attempted;
3) The student must complete 12 credits or more in the twelve months following the absence, with a minimum grade-point average of 2.500 for all courses completed in that interval.

Students may apply for Second Start prior to readmission, even if the student’s college requires the program for conditional readmission, and up until the first day of classes of the first term of readmission. Recalculation of the GPA won’t occur until after the student completes 12 credits with a 2.500 GPA within the first 12 months.

If the student satisfies the conditions for Second Start, the Office of the Registrar will annotate the student’s permanent record to indicate that the Program was enacted. Once enacted, grades from all course work completed prior to the extended absence will be designated as not contributing to the GPA; courses in which a C or better was earned may count toward degree requirements (courses with grades below a C will no longer satisfy degree requirements).

Once Second Start is granted, a readmitted student must meet all requirements for the degree program and the University, including major, minor and University Credit requirements. Second Start may be granted only once in a student’s academic career and is not available to students who have completed requirements for a bachelor’s degree. When Second Start is enacted, it is permanent.

While Second Start allows for the GPA to be reset, grades from the previous enrollment will continue to display on the student’s academic record for an accurate academic history.
Students with absences of fewer than three years may still apply for readmission without Second Start. Note: General Petitions requesting a shorter absence for Second Start will not be reviewed or granted.

Justification:

- Academic Renewal, the current grade forgiveness policy that requires a 5-year wait and completion of 30 credits of new course work with a 2.500 GPA, is onerous for part-time students who left the UA in poor standing and who want to complete a degree on a part-time basis. Those former students may transfer to another institution for a fresh start rather than return to the UA.

- A review of readmission policies of 15 peers (along with ASU and NAU) reveals that most have grade forgiveness policies involving one of these: removal of entire terms, removal of select courses from the GPA, a complete GPA reset while courses still apply, or a complete GPA reset and loss of courses. The most common approach is to reset the GPA while still allowing successfully completed courses to meet degree requirements (University of Florida, Pennsylvania State, Ohio State, Arizona State).

- Students who left after a poor freshman year and return to the university after a 3-year absence are more mature, have better defined goals, are more likely to have stable family/work obligations, and have more motivation to succeed. The Second Start Program will provide the chance those former students need to regain good academic standing.

- “Second Start” is a clear, marketable name that will resonate with prospective readmits who left the UA on academic probation or disqualification and who seek a “fresh start” with respect to GPA.

Approvals:
- Undergraduate Council: 2/9/16
- Graduate Council: N/A
- Academic Deans: 3/29/16
- Administrative Review: 4/11/16
- FS: