# THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE FACULTY SENATE

Senate Document Number 3118S Date of Senate Approval 03/01/18

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Statement of Faculty Senate Action:

APC Document 25: Change to Minimum GPA for Transfer Admission

**Effective Date: Fall 2018** 

**1. Delete:** On page 3, first paragraph under Transfer Students:

#### **Transfer Students**

Transfer student applications are reviewed based on both high school and college records. For consideration, a student must possess a minimum GPA of 2.5 on all college course work and be eligible to return to the last school attended. However, no minimum GPA guarantees admission, and a strong performance in a challenging college curriculum is heavily weighted.

**Add:** On page 3, in place of deleted entry:

#### **Transfer Students**

Admission to UNC Asheville is competitive. The Office of Admissions reviews applications for admission individually, placing strong emphasis on a review all application materials, including: the application, official transcripts, essays, letters of recommendation and any other materials submitted to determine every candidate's potential for success at UNC Asheville. No minimum cumulative transfer GPA guarantees admission. Stronger cumulative performance in college-level curriculum increases the likelihood of admission.

**Impact:** The Office of Admissions currently holistically reviews all candidates for admission, including those students who have cumulative GPAs below 2.5, before making any formal decision. This proposal would formalize a link the University's definition of "Good Academic Standing" to the eligibility criteria for admission without guaranteeing admission to any student. The current comprehensive review method considers all application materials, including: the application, official transcripts, essays, letters of recommendation and any other materials submitted in support of the candidate. The University could expect additional applicants who might otherwise self-reject after observing a published minimum GPA. Research shows a small sample of these students have performed consistent with institutional definitions of "Good Academic Standing" on average over the last four years following enrollment.

**Rationale:** Removing the GPA designation in the admission criteria holds incoming transfer applicants accountable to the same minimum standards UNC Asheville places on its currently enrolled students for determining their eligibility to continue at the University. GPA alone may not reflect of the kind of academic capability a student possesses, and it may be the result of coursework from many years ago or circumstances outside the classroom. Each year from 2013-2016, a small sample of students admitted with Cumulative Transfer GPAs below 2.5 performed well enough on average to satisfy "Good Academic Standing" at UNC Asheville, and outperformed students admitted with 2.5-3.0 GPAs the last three years.

This proposal calls for a comprehensive review of every application for admission to determine the potential for a student to be successful at UNC Asheville without a minimum GPA standard for admission. This proposal does NOT intend, or request, to divert from the current practice that no GPA would automatically guarantee admission to UNC Asheville, and that practice remains in this proposal.

Several sources of quantitative and qualitative data reinforce this proposal, including: historical performance from the population in question, state and national peer practices for transfer admission that depict behaviors of other institutions of note, and COPLAC peer practices for transfer admission.

#### **Appendix A: Historical Performance**

#### **Historical Performance of Transfer Students (Cumulative GPA < 2.5)**

There have been small samples of students who enrolled each year with a GPA below 2.5 at the time of admission. Figure 1 shows the frequency of new transfer students who entered each term between Fall 2013 and Fall 2017 regardless of GPA. The Transfer GPA column refers to the re-calculated Cumulative Transfer GPA the student had prior to enrollment at UNCA. The Average UNCA GPA refers the average GPA for the frequency of that group without transfer work considered.

Figure 1: F13-F17 Transfer Enrolled

Transfer		Transfer	Average
Year	Number	GPA	UNCA GPA
F13	33	<2.5	2.318
	111	2.5-3.0	2.609
	128	3.01-3.5	3.015
	95	>3.51	3.381
F14	33	<2.5	2.701
	105	2.5-3.0	2.592
	130	3.01-3.5	2.822
	97	>3.51	3.427
F15	15	<2.5	2.886
	103	2.5-3.0	2.670
	104	3.01-3.5	2.655
	95	>3.51	3.347
F16	26	<2.5	2.474
	76	2.5-3.0	2.391
	105	3.01-3.5	3.015
	87	>3.51	3.283
F17	28	<2.5	NA
	112	2.5-3.0	NA
	121	3.01-3.5	NA
	109	>3.51	NA

Figure 1 demonstrates that students with Cumulative Transfer GPAs below 2.5 perform similarly to those with a 2.5-3.0 Cumulative Transfer GPA. These students, albeit with a smaller sample size, demonstrated slightly higher UNCA GPAs and slightly higher high school GPAs as well. Considering the high school performance was slightly better, it should not come as a surprise that the UNCA performance was better. This observation reinforces the argument that these students can be successful based on the institution's definition of "Good Academic Standing" if they were admitted outright. For a variety of reasons, these students may not have been as successful prior to enrolling at UNC Asheville, but they are able to be successful now. This data reinforces that the reasons a student has less than a 2.5 should not be perceived universally as an inability to handle collegelevel content.

Figure 2 below shows individual student GPAs graphically, where the blue dots represent each individual transfer student and their respective Cumulative Transfer GPAs prior to enrolling at UNC Asheville. The orange dots reference the UNC Asheville GPA. This data reinforces that the majority of transfer students are able to satisfy UNC Asheville's definition of "Good Academic Standing." What is more important to note is that the UNC Asheville GPA is aggregated and

represents more than just a single term GPA. The GPA reflects "Good Academic Standing" after *all* their academic work is included in the data post admission, and these graphs include those students admitted with Cumulative Transfer GPAs below 2.5.

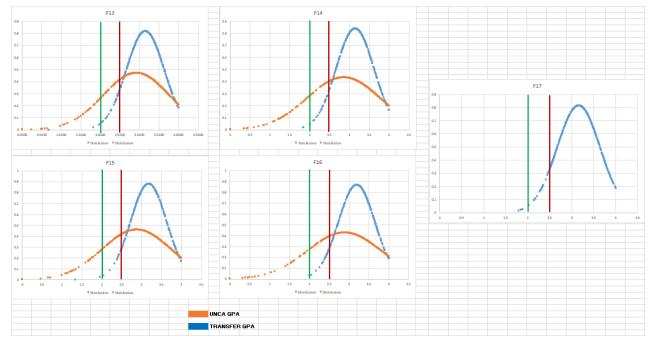


Figure 2: F13-F17 Graph of Overall Transfer Student Performance

The students affected by this proposal are the blue dots to the left of the red line in Figure 2. These orange dots represented in between the green and red lines represent the students who are performing below the current 2.5 GPA admission standard but who remain in "Good Academic Standing" terms of their GPA performance at UNC Asheville. These orange dots are students who are performing at this level regardless of their Cumulative GPA at the time of their admission to UNC Asheville. While acknowledging the smaller sample size, this data reflects that students admitted with a Cumulative Transfer GPA below 2.5 demonstrate a sufficient likelihood to be successful at UNC Asheville and warrant consideration for admission accordingly.

#### Limitations on Data-Gathering on Transfer Student GPA

Cumulative Transfer GPA is a complicated data-point. This Cumulative GPA information is not available within the Student Information System (Banner) as a data-point. The Office of Admissions recalculates the incoming Cumulative Transfer GPA when making an admission decision, but there is no field to store the Cumulative Transfer GPA anywhere in Banner. Because the field is not available, and information on transfer students attainable through Institutional Research and Effectiveness Planning is affected by the absence of a cumulative GPA value. IREP data, see Figure 4, reflects the GPA observed on the most recent college transcript submitted by a candidate for admission – and NOT the Cumulative Transfer GPA. Discussions and confirmation of this observation occurred with Michael Gass prior to the presentation of this proposal. Figures 3 and 4 were presented to APC separately prior to this presentation, so it is important that the accurate understanding of the GPA data used in Figures 1 and 2 be properly explained in terms of Figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3 illustrates the retention, graduation, and persistence rates for "all transfer students regardless of the Transfer GPA" between Fall 2007 and Fall 2016. Figure 4 illustrates the same retention, graduation, and persistence rates models when applied to those students admitted with a GPA below 2.5. This chart shows current UNCA GPA averages for all transfer students within that below 2.5 GPA band. However, this data, again, uses the most recent GPA from their most recent prior campus. Figure 4 serves as a valuable comparison dataset for those students below the 2.5 compared with the aggregated transfer student population. IREP's data (Figures 5-7) further compares all retention, graduation, and persistence

rate results at UNC Asheville across the same GPA bands represented in Figure 1 by GPA band, even though the GPAs are not cumulative in the IREP data.

Figure 3: F07-F16 Overall Transfer Student Retention, Graduation, Persistence and UNCA GPA

All Transfer GPAs    After 1   Year   Years   Years	Retention of New Fall Transfer Stu	udents							
Persistence Rate   2007   287   78   64.5   27.5   9.1   4.5   4.5   2009   318   78.9   55.7   20.4   4.1   0.6   2010   359   25.5   25.4   24.4   2010   359   25.5   25.4   24.4   2010   36.5   25.5									
2008   297   76.4   54.9   22.9   5.4   2.4				1				I	After 6 Years
2009   318   78.9   55.7   20.4   4.1   0.6	Retention Rate	2007	287	78	64.5	27.5	9.1	4.5	2.1
2010 369 82.5 61.3 25.9 10 3.6 2011 330 75.2 56.4 20.9 7.3 2.4 2012 325 76 55.4 21.5 5.5 2.5 2013 378 78.3 57.7 20.6 3.7 2014 367 75.5 52.3 21 2015 318 77.4 55 2016 302 76.2 2009 318 0 11.9 44 59.4 61.9 2010 359 0 8.4 42.9 58.8 65.2 2011 330 0 8.8 43.3 55.5 60.3 2012 325 0 11.1 43.1 58.2 60.9 2014 367 0 16.3 47.4 2016 302 0 0 2017 303 0 76.4 67.3 66.7 65.3 66.6 68.3 66.8 68.8 68.8 68.8 68.8 68		2008	297	76.4	54.9	22.9	5.4	2.4	0.7
2011   330   75.2   56.4   20.9   7.3   2.4		2009	318	78.9	55.7	20.4	4.1	0.6	0.3
2012 325 76 55.4 21.5 5.5 2.5 2013 378 78.3 57.7 20.6 3.7 2014 367 75.5 52.3 21 2015 318 77.4 55 2016 302 76.2 2017 287 0 8 40.8 58.9 63.8 2008 297 0 12.5 43.8 59.9 62.6 2009 318 0 11.9 44 59.4 61.9 2010 359 0 8.4 42.9 58.8 65.2 2011 330 0 8.8 43.3 55.5 60.3 2012 325 0 11.1 43.1 58.2 60.9 2013 378 0.5 14 46.8 65.6 2014 367 0 16.3 47.4 2016 302 0 2017 287 78 72.5 68.3 67.9 68.3 2018 2019 318 0 11.9 46.8 65.6 2019 318 0 16.4 2010 359 0 8.4 50.9 2011 330 0 8.8 83.3 55.5 60.3 2012 325 0 11.1 43.1 58.2 60.9 2013 378 0.5 14 46.8 65.6 2014 367 0 16.3 47.4 2015 318 0 16.4 2016 302 0 2017 287 78 72.5 68.3 67.9 68.3 2008 297 76.4 67.3 66.7 65.3 65. 2009 318 78.9 67.6 64.5 63.5 62.6 2010 359 82.5 69.6 68.8 68.8 68.8 2011 330 75.2 65.2 64.2 62.7 62.7 2012 325 76 66.5 64.6 63.7 63.4 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2015 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 378 78.8 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 378 78.8 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2019 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2019 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2019 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2019 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.02 2.81 2019 359 2.96 3.05 3.14 3.01 2.95 2011 330 2.88 3.02 3.13 3.04 3.01 2012 325 2.72 2.99 3.07 2.86 2.82 2013 378 2.84 3.99 3.13 3.01 2014 367 2.72 3.06 3.09		2010	359	82.5	61.3	25.9	10	3.6	1.4
2013   378   78.3   57.7   20.6   3.7		2011	330	75.2	56.4	20.9	7.3	2.4	0.9
2014 367 75.5 52.3 21 2016 302 76.2 2016 302 76.2 2007 287 0 8 40.8 58.9 63.8 2008 297 0 12.5 43.8 59.9 62.6 2009 318 0 11.9 44 59.4 61.9 2010 359 0 8.4 42.9 58.8 65.2 2011 330 0 8.8 43.3 55.5 60.3 2012 325 0 11.1 43.1 58.2 60.9 2014 367 0 16.3 47.4 2015 318 0 16.4 2016 302 0 207 287 78 72.5 68.3 67.9 68.3 2016 302 0 207 287 78 72.5 68.3 67.9 68.3 209 318 78.9 67.6 64.5 63.5 62.6 2010 359 82.5 69.6 68.8 68.8 68.8 2011 330 75.2 65.2 64.2 62.7 62.7 2013 378 78 78 77.7 67.5 68.7 68.4 2014 367 79.5 68.7 68.4 2015 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 326 77.5 68.7 68.4 2018 378 78 78 77.7 67.5 69.3 2019 318 78.9 67.6 64.5 63.5 62.6 2010 359 82.5 69.6 68.8 68.8 68.8 2011 330 75.2 65.2 64.2 62.7 62.7 2012 325 76 66.5 64.6 63.7 63.4 2013 378 78.8 71.7 67.5 69.3 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2015 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 287 288 30.5 3.14 3.05 2.89 2018 297 2.91 3.06 3.12 3.1 3.07 2009 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.1 3.07 2009 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.0 2.89 2010 359 2.96 3.05 3.14 3.01 2.95 2011 330 2.88 3.02 3.13 3.04 3.01 2012 325 2.72 2.99 3.07 2.86 2.82 2013 378 2.84 3.09 3.13 3.11 2014 367 2.72 3.06 3.09		2012	325	76	55.4	21.5	5.5	2.5	
2015 318 77.4 55 2016 302 76.2 2007 287 0 8 40.8 58.9 63.8 2008 297 0 12.5 43.8 59.9 62.6 2009 318 0 11.9 44 59.4 61.9 2010 359 0 8.4 42.9 58.8 65.2 2011 330 0 8.8 43.3 55.5 60.3 2012 325 0 11.1 43.1 58.2 60.9 2014 367 0 16.3 47.4 2015 318 0 16.4 2016 302 0 2017 287 78 72.5 68.3 67.9 68.3 2016 302 0 2017 287 78 72.5 68.3 67.9 68.3 2019 318 78.9 67.6 64.5 63.5 62.6 2010 359 82.5 69.6 68.8 68.8 68.8 2011 330 75.2 65.2 64.2 62.7 62.7 2012 325 76 66.5 64.6 63.7 63.4 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 287 288 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 387 78.5 68.7 68.4 2018 378 77.4 71.4 2019 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2019 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.02 2.81 2019 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.02 2.81 2010 359 2.96 3.05 3.14 3.01 2.95 2011 330 2.88 3.02 3.13 3.04 3.01 2012 325 2.72 2.99 3.07 2.86 2.82 2011 330 2.88 3.02 3.13 3.04 3.01 2012 325 2.72 2.99 3.07 2.86 2.82 2013 378 2.84 3.09 3.13 3.11		2013	378	78.3	57.7	20.6	3.7		
2016   302   76.2		2014	367	75.5	52.3	21			
2007   287   0   8   40.8   58.9   63.8		2015	318	77.4	55				
2008   297		2016	302	76.2					
2008   297	Graduation Rate	2007	287		8	40.8	58.9	63.8	65.5
2009   318		2008	297	0	12.5				64.3
2010   359   0   8.4   42.9   58.8   65.2		2009	318	0			59.4		62.6
2011   330		2010	359	0					66.9
2012   325   0		2011	330	0					62.4
2013   378   0.5		2012	325						
2014 367 0 16.3 47.4 2015 318 0 16.4 2016 302 0  Persistence Rate  2007 287 78 72.5 68.3 67.9 68.3 2008 297 76.4 67.3 66.7 65.3 65 2009 318 78.9 67.6 64.5 63.5 62.6 2010 359 82.5 69.6 68.8 68.8 68.8 2011 330 75.2 65.2 64.2 62.7 62.7 2012 325 76 66.5 64.6 63.7 63.4 2013 378 78.8 71.7 67.5 69.3 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2015 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 287 286 3.05 3.14 3.05 2.89 2008 297 2.91 3.06 3.12 3.1 3.07 2009 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.02 2.81 2010 359 2.96 3.05 3.14 3.01 2.95 2011 330 2.88 3.02 3.13 3.04 3.01 2012 325 2.72 2.99 3.07 2.86 2.82 2013 378 2.84 3.09 3.13 3.11 2014 367 2.72 3.06 3.09		2013	378	0.5					
2015   318   0   16.4		2014	367						
2016   302   0		2015	318	_					
Persistence Rate    2007   287   78   72.5   68.3   67.9   68.3		2016		_	10.1				
2008 297 76.4 67.3 66.7 65.3 65 2009 318 78.9 67.6 64.5 63.5 62.6 2010 359 82.5 69.6 68.8 68.8 68.8 2011 330 75.2 65.2 64.2 62.7 62.7 2012 325 76 66.5 64.6 63.7 63.4 2013 378 78.8 71.7 67.5 69.3 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2015 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2017 287 286 3.05 3.14 3.05 2.89 2018 297 2.91 3.06 3.12 3.1 3.07 2009 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.02 2.81 2010 359 2.96 3.05 3.14 3.01 2.95 2011 330 2.88 3.02 3.13 3.04 3.01 2012 325 2.72 2.99 3.07 2.86 2.82 2013 378 2.84 3.09 3.13 3.11 2014 367 2.72 3.06 3.09	Persistence Rate				72.5	68.3	67.9	68.3	67.6
2009   318   78.9   67.6   64.5   63.5   62.6		2008							65
2010 359 82.5 69.6 68.8 68.8 68.8 2011 330 75.2 65.2 64.2 62.7 62.7 2012 325 76 66.5 64.6 63.7 63.4 2013 378 78.8 71.7 67.5 69.3 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2015 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2 2007 287 2.86 3.05 3.14 3.05 2.89 2008 297 2.91 3.06 3.12 3.1 3.07 2009 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.02 2.81 2010 359 2.96 3.05 3.14 3.01 2.95 2011 330 2.88 3.02 3.13 3.04 3.01 2012 325 2.72 2.99 3.07 2.86 2.82 2013 378 2.84 3.09 3.13 3.11 2014 367 2.72 3.06 3.09		2009	318						62.9
2011 330 75.2 65.2 64.2 62.7 62.7 2012 325 76 66.5 64.6 63.7 63.4 2013 378 78.8 71.7 67.5 69.3 2014 367 75.5 68.7 68.4 2015 318 77.4 71.4 2016 302 76.2  Cumulative GPA  2007 287 2.86 3.05 3.14 3.05 2.89 2008 297 2.91 3.06 3.12 3.1 3.07 2009 318 2.9 3.03 3.12 3.02 2.81 2010 359 2.96 3.05 3.14 3.01 2.95 2011 330 2.88 3.02 3.13 3.04 3.01 2012 325 2.72 2.99 3.07 2.86 2.82 2013 378 2.84 3.09 3.13 3.11 2014 367 2.72 3.06 3.09									68.2
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Cumulative GPA         2007         287         2.86         3.05         3.14         3.05         2.89           2008         297         2.91         3.06         3.12         3.1         3.07           2009         318         2.9         3.03         3.12         3.02         2.81           2010         359         2.96         3.05         3.14         3.01         2.95           2011         330         2.88         3.02         3.13         3.04         3.01           2012         325         2.72         2.99         3.07         2.86         2.82           2013         378         2.84         3.09         3.13         3.11           2014         367         2.72         3.06         3.09					71.4				
2008         297         2.91         3.06         3.12         3.1         3.07           2009         318         2.9         3.03         3.12         3.02         2.81           2010         359         2.96         3.05         3.14         3.01         2.95           2011         330         2.88         3.02         3.13         3.04         3.01           2012         325         2.72         2.99         3.07         2.86         2.82           2013         378         2.84         3.09         3.13         3.11           2014         367         2.72         3.06         3.09	Cumulative GPA				3.05	3 14	3.05	2.80	2.89
2009         318         2.9         3.03         3.12         3.02         2.81           2010         359         2.96         3.05         3.14         3.01         2.95           2011         330         2.88         3.02         3.13         3.04         3.01           2012         325         2.72         2.99         3.07         2.86         2.82           2013         378         2.84         3.09         3.13         3.11           2014         367         2.72         3.06         3.09									3.83
2010         359         2.96         3.05         3.14         3.01         2.95           2011         330         2.88         3.02         3.13         3.04         3.01           2012         325         2.72         2.99         3.07         2.86         2.82           2013         378         2.84         3.09         3.13         3.11           2014         367         2.72         3.06         3.09				_					3.38
2011         330         2.88         3.02         3.13         3.04         3.01           2012         325         2.72         2.99         3.07         2.86         2.82           2013         378         2.84         3.09         3.13         3.11           2014         367         2.72         3.06         3.09									2.85
2012         325         2.72         2.99         3.07         2.86         2.82           2013         378         2.84         3.09         3.13         3.11           2014         367         2.72         3.06         3.09									2.7
2013         378         2.84         3.09         3.13         3.11           2014         367         2.72         3.06         3.09									2.11
2014 367 2.72 3.06 3.09								2.02	
							3.11		
		2015	318	$\overline{}$		3.09			
2015 318 2.78 3.06 2016 302 2.78				_					

Figure 4: F07-F16 Recent Transfer GPA < 2.5 Student Retention, Graduation, Persistence and UNCA GPA

Retention of New Fall Transfer Students	_							
Weighted Cumulative Transfer GPA 0-2.49								
			After 1 Year	After 2 Years	After 3 Years	After 4 Years	After 5 Years	After 6 Years
Retention Rate	2007	13	76.9	53.8	23.1	15.4	15.4	15.4
	2008	30	86.7	56.7	30	0	3.3	0
	2009	32	71.9	50	18.8	6.3	0	0
	2010	29	86.2	37.9	20.7	10.3	6.9	3.4
	2011	19	89.5	68.4	21.1	15.8	0	0
	2012	18	72.2	38.9	11.1	11.1	11.1	
	2013	36	69.4	47.2	8.3	2.8		
	2014	30	76.7	43.3	20			
	2015	17	82.4	64.7				
	2016	22	77.3					
Graduation Rate	2007	13	0	15.4	38.5	46.2	46.2	46.2
	2008	30	0	6.7	36.7	60	60	63.3
	2009	32	0	12.5	34.4	46.9	50	50
	2010	29	0	17.2	34.5	44.8	44.8	48.3
	2011	19	0	5.3	52.6	52.6	63.2	63.2
	2012	18	0	5.6	22.2	27.8	27.8	
	2013	36	0	16.7	41.7	55.6		
	2014	30	0	20	46.7			
	2015	17	0	11.8				
	2016	22	0					
Persistence Rate	2007	13	76.9	69.2	61.5	61.5	61.5	61.5
	2008	30	86.7	63.3	66.7	60	63.3	63.3
	2009	32	71.9	62.5	53.1	53.1	50	50
	2010	29	86.2	55.2	55.2	55.2	51.7	51.7
	2011	19	89.5	73.7	73.7	68.4	63.2	63.2
	2012	18	72.2	44.4	33.3	38.9	38.9	
	2013	36	69.4	63.9	50	58.3		
	2014	30	76.7	63.3	66.7			
	2015	17	82.4	76.5			/	
	2016	22	77,3					
Cumulative GPA	2007	13	2.55	2.77	2.9	2.83	3.05	3.29
	2008	30	2.75	2.75	2.93	2.82		3.56
	2009	32	2.25	2.65	2.84	2.95	2.31	
	2010	29	2.55	2.66	2.84	2.93	2.75	3.43
	2011	19	2.43	2.6	2.78	2.32	2.37	
	2012	18	2.35	2.63	2.73	2.38	2.2	
	2013	36	2.39	2.62	2.63	2.54		
	2014	30	2.43	2.69	2.78			
	2015	17	2.49	2.87				/
	2016	22	2.37					

Given the Figure 4 dataset, however, it is clear that these students whose recent transfer work was below 2.5 were also able to demonstrate "Good Academic Standing." Figure 4, along with Figure 1, culminate to suggest that students who are admitted to UNC Asheville with a Cumulative Transfer GPA – or a most recent Transfer GPA – below 2.5 are both likely to perform consistent with the institutional definition of "Good Academic Standing."

Figure 5: F07-F16 Recent Transfer GPA 2.5-3.0 Student Retention, Graduation, Persistence and UNCA GPA

Retention of New Fall Transfer Students								
Weighted Cumulative Transfer GPA 2.50-2.99								
			After 1	1		After 4		After 6
P-44' P-4-	2007	00	Year	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years
Retention Rate	2007	96	69.8		28.1	11.5	6.3	3.1
	2008	93	72		20.4	5.4		1.1
	2009	91	83.5	56	22	5.5		1.1
	2010	107	78.5		23.4	12.1	4.7	2.8
	2011	91	72.5		22	6.6		1.1
	2012	116	77.6	60.3	27.6	6.9	0.9	
	2013	109	75.2	57.8		3.7		
	2014	100	71	55	26			
	2015	95	78.9					
	2016	72	65.3					
Graduation Rate	2007	96	0	7.3	31.3	50	56.3	57.3
	2008	93	0	8.6	44.1	58.1	59.1	60.2
	2009	91	0	12.1	41.8	58.2	60.4	60.4
	2010	107	0	6.5	39.3	52.3		60.7
	2011	91	0	4.4	34.1	48.4	51.6	56
	2012	116	0	11.2	43.1	62.1	68.1	
	2013	109	0	11	40.4	59.6		
	2014	100	0	13	42			
	2015	95	0	14.7				
	2016	72	0					
Persistence Rate	2007	96	69.8	64.6	59.4	61.5	62.5	60.4
	2008	93	72	65.6	64.5	63.4	62.4	61.3
	2009	91	83.5	68.1	63.7	63.7	61.5	61.5
	2010	107	78.5	59.8	62.6	64.5	64.5	63.6
	2011	91	72.5	59.3	56	54.9	56	57.1
	2012	116	77.6	71.6	70.7	69	69	
	2013	109	75.2	68.8	62.4	63.3		
	2014	100	71	68				
	2015	95	78.9	72.6				
	2016	72	65,3					
Cumulative GPA	2007	96	2.55	2.79	2.85	2.88	2.67	2.62
	2008	93	2.62	2.83	2.96	2.97	2.75	2.86
	2009	91/	2.65		2.93	2.59	2.44	3.03
	2010	1/07	2.71	2.91	3.08		2.67	2.34
	2011	91	2.53		2.86			2.84
	2012	116	2.5	2.77	2.86	2.66		2.31
	2013	109	2.51	2.91	2.89	2.87	2	
	2014	100	2.45		2.93	2.01		
	2015	95	2.43	2.92	2.00			
	2016	72	2:44					
	2010	12	2.44					

Figure 6: F07-F16 Recent Transfer GPA 3.0-3.5 Student Retention, Graduation, Persistence and UNCA GPA

Retention of New Fall Transfer Students	<u> </u>							
Weighted Cumulative Transfer GPA 3.00-3.49								
			After 1	After 2	After 3	After 4	After 5	After 6
Retention Rate	2007	97	Year	Years	Years	Years	Years	Years
Retention Rate			88.7	76.3	28.9	7.2	1	4.0
	2008	84	77.4	56	17.9	3.6	2.4	1.2
	2009	103	78.6	60.2	25.2	1.9	1	0
	2010	133	83.5	65.4	28.6	8.3	3	0.8
	2011	125	73.6	52	14.4	4	1.6	
	2012	112	75.9	52.7	20.5	2.7	1.8	
	2013	134	79.9	54.5	19.4	6		
	2014	129	76	53.5	18.6			
	2015	111	74.8	56.8				
	2016	111	77.5					
Graduation Rate	2007	97	0	6.2	47.4	68	72.2	
	2008	84	0	13.1	47.6		63.1	64.3
	2009	103	0	6.8	43.7	62.1	64.1	65
	2010	133	0	7.5	42.9		68.4	69.9
	2011	125	0	12.8	48.8	56.8	60	60.8
	2012	112	0	11.6	42.9		58.9	
	2013	134	0.7	15.7	50.7	65.7		
	2014	129	0	17.1	50.4			
	2015	111	0	8.1				
	2016	111	0					
Persistence Rate	2007	97	88.7	82.5	76.3	75.3	73.2	73.2
	2008	84	77.4	69	65.5	64.3	65.5	65.5
	2009	103	78.6	67	68.9	64.1	65	65
	2010	133	83.5	72.9	71.4	70.7	71.4	70.7
	2011	125	73.6	64.8	63.2	60.8	61.6	62.4
	2012	112	75.9	64.3	63.4	61.6	60.7	
	2013	134	80.6	70.1	70.1	71.6		
	2014	129	76	70.5	69			
	2015	111	74.8	64.9				
	2016	111	77.5					
Cumulative GPA	2007	97	2.98	3.07	3.19	3.09	3.07	2.36
	2008	84	2.93	3.06	3.12	3.05	3.05	2.94
	2009	103	2.88	3.06	3.13		3.04	3.74
	2010	133	2.97	3.01	3.05	3.01	3.2	2.93
	2011	125	2.9	3.05	3.1	2.95		2.49
	2012	112	2.71	3.03	3.17	2.92	2.62	
	2013	134	2.89	3.09	3.13	3.11		
	2014	129	2.68	3.08	3.08			
	2015	111	2.54	2.9				
	2016	111	2.77					

Figure 7: F07-F16 Recent Transfer GPA 3.5-4.0 Student Retention, Graduation, Persistence and UNCA GPA

Retention of New Fall Transfer Students	-							
Weighted Cumulative Transfer GPA 3.5-4.0			A 64 4	A64 2	A 64 2	A 54 A	A 64 F	A 64 C
			After 1 Year	After 2 Years	After 3 Years	After 4 Years	After 5 Years	After 6 Years
Retention Rate	2007	78	75.6			7.7	5.1	1.3
	2008	83	77.1		26.5	8.4	1.2	0
	2009	87	77	51.7	12.6		0	
	2010	82	85.4					
	2011	84	78.6			8.3		
	2012	74	74.3		14.9			
	2013	95	83.2					
	2014	96	78.1		19.8			
	2015	83	79.5					
	2016	92	82.6					
Graduation Rate	2007	78	0		43.6	60.3	65.4	69.2
<del></del>	2008	83	0	19.3	43.4	61.4	66.3	68.7
	2009	87	0		50.6	60.9	64.4	65.5
	2010	82	0			65.9	74.4	75.6
	2011	84	0			65.5	73.8	
	2012	74	0		50	59.5		
	2013	95	1.1		52.6	76.8		
	2014	96	0					
	2015	83	0					
	2016	92	0					
Persistence Rate	2007	78	75.6	70.5	70.5	67.9	70.5	70.5
	2008	83	77.1		69.9	69.9	67.5	68.7
	2009	87	77	69	63.2	65.5	64.4	65.
	2010	82	85.4	80.5		75.6		75.6
	2011	84	78.6		73.8			
	2012	74	74.3	67.6	64.9	64.9	64.9	
	2013	95	84.2	81.1	76.8	77.9		
	2014	96	78.1					
	2015	83	79.5					
	2016	92	82.6					
Cumulative GPA	2007	78	3,17	3.34	3.41	3.27	3.09	3.3
	2008	83	3.25		3.39	3.28	3.24	3.18
	2009	87 /	3.39			3.53	3.36	
	2010	82	3.39		3.43			3.64
	2011	84	3.36		3.5	3.4		3.45
	2012	74	3.14		3.31	3.34		
	2013	95	3.32		3.5	3.43		
	2014	96	3.16		3.33			
	2015	83	3.24					
	2016	92	3.16					

## Appendix B: Availability of More Transfers Given this Proposal

This proposal is not presented as a means to attract a substantially larger transfer pool. Considering that some students may choose not to apply after discovering the current minimum 2.5 GPA requirement, it follows that some students might consider applying if the academic GPA expectation were not explicitly stated. More students may apply. More students may be admitted, but more students could also be denied. How many students that might include, unfortunately, is unknowable. What is most important is that these students have the ability to connect with the Office of Admissions to facilitate a discussion about what students should do to prepare to transfer to UNC Asheville instead of self-rejecting without ever applying for admission.

Instead, this proposal is offered to recalibrate policy for those who wish to enroll at UNC Asheville, so these students will be considered for admission using the same rubric that is used to determine if they are allowed to remain. In other words, it would be no harder to get into UNC Asheville with this new transfer GPA policy in place than it is to remain at UNC Asheville under current policies and procedures.

# **Appendix C: Recommendations for Verbiage from Peers**

In many cases, it is clear that our higher education peers are moving away from having a 2.5 GPA as a minimum requirement. One trend for institutions is to move in one of two different directions: require a minimum of 2.0 for admission or offer admission as a result of a comprehensive review of the application.

Many institutions suggest that a 2.0 is a minimum is required for admission to these institutions. Some other institutions suggest the 2.0 minimum but reinforce that a higher GPA is recommended. Other institutions suggest that 2.0 is a minimum for consideration, but a comprehensive review of the record suggest that a 2.0 does not present a guarantee of admission. Most notably, however, are the COPLAC institutions, where a recent review of their transfer admission websites (see Appendix D) reveals 22 different COPLAC institutions that are already using a 2.0 for admission purposes in one form or another. One additional COPLAC institution (Rampano) describes their transfer GPA requirement as "strongly recommending a 2.5," but their website stops short of calling the 2.5 GPA a requirement.

However, a growing number of institutions have begun to publish their admission criteria within the context of a comprehensive review evaluation process. These institutions have opted to evaluate these individual students thoroughly on the front end of the application process without pushing the application through a denial process and a possible appeal. Statistically, the number of people who appeal a decision is far less than the number of people denied, so waiting to admit a student on an appeal can have a detrimental impact on keeping students who have the capacity to be successful from actually getting admitted. By using a comprehensive review on the front end, the ability to evaluate – even gather more – information on the front end allows for a much more in depth assessment of a student's potential. Then, if necessary, the student can be encouraged to consider an appeal as a last alternative. This process would reduce the number of appeal candidates to review, but it would also improve a candidate's personal relationship with the institution when they are not denied during the review process.

Finally, the ability to provide a comprehensive review of applicants reinforces the mission-centered approach to a liberal arts environment, where discourse, personal inquiry and critical thought are taught as the staples of our learning model. This evaluation process represents a perfect application of the critical thinking we are teach, which is to not accept truth at face value to but critically assess a problem from all angles to determine the best-possible alternative. The Office of Admissions believes that the values we describe to students should be reinforced by our using the same methods to make our decisions on their behalf.

Highlighted institutions (See Appendix D) describe their admission procedures for transfers within the context of a comprehensive review of the application, which avoids any direct communication of the required GPA necessary for admission. In these cases, the student's overall application determines admissibility and not any one characteristic alone (notably GPA). These institutions represent 3 COPLAC institutions, and one UNC system school (Western Carolina).

# Appendix D: Examples from Institutions (Including COPLAC Institutions) with Links

http://admissions.fsu.edu/transfer/ also requires a 3.0 HS

http://admissions.fsu.edu/transfer/ also requires a 3.0 HS

http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/counselors/transfer/minimum-requirements/index.html

http://www.csun.edu/admissions-records/apply-upper-division-transfer-student for Cal State schools

<u>https://admissions.uncc.edu/transfers/transfer-requirements</u> in the UNC System (Charlotte) and requires a minimum of 2.0 but does not guarantee admission (higher makes you more competitive)

http://www.nccu.edu/admissions/transfer.cfm in the UNC System (Central) and requires a minimum of 2.0 for all academic programs (AA or BA)

https://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/ugcat0708/admission.cfm in the UNC System (ECU) and suggests that some programs may require higher GPA

https://gobama.ua.edu/steps/transfer-req/

https://admissions.wvu.edu/how-to-apply/transfer-students, and less than 24 credits must meet freshman requirements

https://admissions.arizona.edu/how-to-apply/transfer/requirements also requires a 2.5 HS GPA if you are younger than 21, no HS over 21

https://www.depaul.edu/admission-and-aid/types-of-admission/transfer-student/Pages/default.aspx uses a 2.0 for general admission and a 2.5 for some majors.

http://admissions.buffalostate.edu/transfer

https://www.worcester.edu/Transfer-Students/

https://undergrad.osu.edu/apply/transfer/admission-criteria/enrollment-criteria Ohio State

https://admissions.olemiss.edu/applying-to-ole-miss/applying-to-ole-miss-transfers/

https://admissions.unm.edu/future students/transfer.html

<u>https://admissions.tcu.edu/apply/transfer-academic-requirements/</u> minimum of 2.0 to be eligible for admission though a cumulative 2.7 or higher on transferable academic coursework is required for admission at TCU.

http://www.stjohns.edu/admission-aid/transfer-admission/application-requirements

https://www.smumn.edu/admission/undergraduate/transfer-students

https://www.wlu.edu/admissions/apply/transfer-applicants

http://sites.allegheny.edu/admissions/transfer/ 2.0 is required, 2.5+ is preferred

## **Direct Competitors:**

https://transfer.utk.edu/admissions/ UT Knoxville

https://www.wcu.edu/apply/undergraduate-admissions/transfer-students/transfer-requirements.aspx no mention of GPA – comprehensive review.

• "The more credits you earn and the higher your collegiate GPA, the greater likelihood you have of gaining admission to the university. The cumulative GPA as listed on each college transcript will be the primary GPA used to calculate your higher education GPA. Because colleges vary in repeat policies, grading systems, whether developmental course grades are included within the GPA calculation, etc., such differences will be considered on a case-by-case basis."

http://www.etsu.edu/admissions/apply/transfer/requirements.php East Tenn State Univ

COPLAC (22 COPLAC schools admit transfers with a GPA of 2.0 or better, at least 1 other suggests it is possible):

**Eastern Connecticut State** - <a href="http://www.easternct.edu/admissions/apply-transfer/">http://www.easternct.edu/admissions/apply-transfer/</a> - describes a comprehensive review admission policy like Western Carolina. Interview not required, but they make it required on a case-by-case basis to clarify information.

• "Admission to Eastern is competitive. The Admission Committee considers many factors when evaluating applications for transfer admission. In general, applicants in good academic standing at their previously-attended institution(s) are offered admission to the University. Eastern seeks to enroll students who have demonstrated academic success in their previous college experience and who view Eastern as their university of first choice."

*Johnson State College* - <a href="http://www.jsc.edu/admissions-aid/how-to-apply/transfer-students/what-we-look-for/">http://www.jsc.edu/admissions-aid/how-to-apply/transfer-students/what-we-look-for/</a>

*Mansfield University* - <a href="https://admissions.mansfield.edu/transfer-students/admissions-requirements.cfm">https://admissions.mansfield.edu/transfer-students/admissions-requirements.cfm</a> some majors have higher GPAs (Education – 3.0, Nursing/Nutrition 2.7, Social Work/Radiologic Tech/Respiratory Therapy – 2.5)

*Mass College of Liberal Arts* - <a href="http://www.mcla.edu/Admissions/Prospective-Students/transfer-student/index">http://www.mcla.edu/Admissions/Prospective-Students/transfer-students/transfer</a> Offers admission consideration to MassTransfer (only – not other transfers) students at the 2.0, but guarantees it at 2.5+ (all other transfers 2.5)

*Shepherd University* - http://www.shepherd.edu/admissions/transfer-students

*Uni of Maine – Farmington -* <a href="http://www.umf.maine.edu/admission/transfer/how-to-transfer/">http://www.umf.maine.edu/admission/transfer/how-to-transfer/</a> but Education has a 2.75

*Henderson State* - http://www.hsu.edu/transfer/admission.html

New College of Florida – https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3FQtTgKui8zbGloWXVaVVJ6eE0/view

• Admission of new students at all levels is on a selective basis within curricular, space and fiscal limitations. Satisfaction of minimum admission requirements does not guarantee acceptance. The selection process takes into consideration such factors as grades, test scores, pattern of courses completed, class rank, educational objectives, past conduct, school letters of recommendation, personal letters of recommendation, and personal records of involvement in activity outside the curriculum. The Dean may consider an applicant's demonstrated interest in attending the College and allocation of limited guaranteed scholarship resources as criteria for admission to NCF.

*Univ of Montavello* - <a href="https://www.montevallo.edu/admissions-aid/">https://www.montevallo.edu/admissions-aid/</a>

*USC Aiken* - https://web.usca.edu/admissions/apply/undergraduate/transfer/

*UVA Wise* - <a href="https://www.uvawise.edu/admissions/transfer-students/">https://www.uvawise.edu/admissions/transfer-students/</a> Applicants must have a 2.2, but students between 2.0 and 2.2 are reviewed by an Admissions committee and may be subject to provisional status.

Truman State - http://www.truman.edu/admission-cost/admission-requirements/transfer-requirements/

• There is no predetermined minimum GPA for transfer students or transferrable credit hour requirement. **Each application is reviewed individually and holistically.** We have, however, found that transfer students who do the best at Truman often bring around 30 transferable credit hours and a transferable GPA at or above a 3.25.

*Univ of IL – Springfield -* http://www.uis.edu/admissions/transfer/

*Univ of WI – Superior* - <a href="https://www.uwsuper.edu/catalog/2016-17/undergraduate/admissions\_catalog1789393#heading1789393e">https://www.uwsuper.edu/catalog/2016-17/undergraduate/admissions\_catalog1789393#heading1789393e</a> Their website had a broken link. This excerpt is from their catalog.

*Fort Lewis* - <a href="https://www.fortlewis.edu/Home/Admission/Transfer.aspx requires a 2.4">https://www.fortlewis.edu/Home/Admission/Transfer.aspx requires a 2.4</a>. However, students 2.0-2.39 are admissible only after a special review.

**St. Mary's College of Maryland** - <a href="https://www.smcm.edu/admissions/transfer/">https://www.smcm.edu/admissions/transfer/</a> Couldn't find the minimum requirements on their website. Emailed their Interim Director who confirmed their ability to admit with a 2.0.

• No minimum transfer GPA because of the holistic process and special niche we have. We even have a special exemption to state articulation/guaranteed transfer regulations which are a 2.0. I think when our enrollment was really healthy, our average was more like a 3.0, but we've had to dip lately to make enrollment.

**Sonoma State** - https://admissions.sonoma.edu/how-apply/requirements/transfers

**Southern OR** - <a href="http://www.sou.edu/admissions/apply/transfer/">http://www.sou.edu/admissions/apply/transfer/</a> requires at least a 2.25, but "minimum 2.0 GPA for all California Exchange Program participants with an AA or AS degree and students who have completed an OR AAOT degree.

**Southern Utah** - https://www.suu.edu/admissions/transfer-student.html

The Evergreen State College - http://www.evergreen.edu/admissions/requirements/transfer

Midwestern State University - <a href="https://mwsu.edu/admissions/requirements-transfer">https://mwsu.edu/admissions/requirements-transfer</a>

*University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma* - <a href="https://usao.edu/future-students/transfer-admissions">https://usao.edu/future-students/transfer-admissions</a>

**Ramapo College of NJ** - <a href="https://www.ramapo.edu/undergraduate/transfer/admission-requirements/">https://www.ramapo.edu/undergraduate/transfer/admission-requirements/</a> they "strongly recommend that transfer students have at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA..." and am verifying if "strongly recommend" is synonymous with a requirement.