TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: Committee on Instruction and Curriculum (CIC)
SUBJECT: 17-18 CIC 34: Grade Forgiveness Policy
PURPOSE: Approval of the Senate
ACTION REQUESTED: That the Senate approve the Grade Forgiveness policy as amended below; upon signature of the President effective Fall Semester, 2018.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
In 16-17 CIC 57, CIC and ultimately the Academic Senate approved a policy about grade forgiveness. APS expressed concerns about one aspect of the approved policy:

Any student who is repeating a course (except if the grade for that course was “W”) is not permitted to register during Advance Registration and must register on a space available basis no earlier than the first day of classes.

The concerns were mostly about some freshmen-level courses with relatively high DFW rates, including A2 and B4 courses. In particular, since those courses tend to have numerous sections, it may be that some sections get cancelled before the semester begins because of a perceived drop in demand. Then, on the first day of classes, the courses will prove to be a bottleneck for students who are repeating them. APS asked CIC to consider recommending an alteration to the policy to instead read:

Any student who is repeating a course (except if the grade for that course was “W”) is not permitted to register during Advance Registration first or second pass and must register on a space available basis no earlier than the first day of classes during or after the Open Enrollment Period.

This approach still has the desired effect of giving advantage to first-time takers, while permitting departments to have a more accurate gauge of student demand for their courses. CIC added the words “for this course” so as to clarify that students will still be allowed to register for other courses during first and/or second pass.

At its meeting on January 22, 2018, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following policy and recommends that the Senate pass it.

PROPOSED POLICY:
The policy language about repeating a course shall be changed as follows:

Any student who is repeating a course (except if the grade for that course was “W”) is not permitted to register for this course during Advance Registration first or second pass and must register on a space available basis no earlier than the first day of classes during or after the Open Enrollment Period.