The Council of Graduate Students Executive Board met Tuesday, March 2, 2011 to discuss possible changes to course repeat policy. The following feedback was provided by the Board members. The Board recognized the tremendous research conducted by UCAP and others in bringing forward this proposal.

In regard to the previous guidelines, the executive board did not favor the policy that students had to fail a course in order to be eligible to retake it. E-board members also felt that it is unfortunate that students who received a 2.0 in a course typically stop showing up to class after the midpoint of the semester and would like to find ways to address this issue and encourage students to continue going to class. The main change to this policy would allow undergraduate students to repeat any course even if they received higher than a 2.0 as a final grade in the class. Questions were raised about how the grading of a course taken multiple times would count; will the best grade be counted or will the score of the last course be counted? And will a fail be noted? Concerns for financial aid to students who repeat courses were also brought up and the possibility that students who repeat courses may have trouble receiving financial aid.

Overall, most agreed this repeat policy would be beneficial in allowing students to take a class they may be interested in, but may not have been prepared for, and may also give them a better chance at becoming a graduate student. A possibility of incorporating a hierarchy system of enrollment was also discussed, where a special date will be decided on to allow students to register to retake a course, as long as there are still openings of that course. The students would be tiered based on how many times they had taken the course, among other factors.

Concerns were also noted about grade inflation. Changes to this policy would allow future students to receive higher grade point averages and look better in comparison, to Michigan State University alumni who were not allowed to repeat courses to raise their GPA. Suggestions were made to raise the minimum GPA from 2.0 to 3.0, which would allow students to retake a course if they were not satisfied with their final grade, but would prevent grade inflation by preventing those who nearly had a 4.0 to repeat the course just to have a perfect GPA. The Board was unanimous in recommending that a 3.0 cutoff point should be implemented, as opposed to the policy recommendation presented by UCAP.