Statement on Recognition of Externally Acquired Academic Credits and Qualifications

1. Current Status

At present, Kunming University does not have a formal, university-wide policy document specifically dedicated to the recognition of externally acquired academic credits and qualifications. This is acknowledged as a gap in the university's academic management system, particularly in the context of international accreditation requirements.

However, the absence of a dedicated policy document does not mean that credit recognition practices do not exist. In practice, the university handles credit recognition on a case-by-case basis through the following existing mechanisms:

- Inter-school exchange programs: Credits obtained through formal exchange programs with partner universities are recognized based on bilateral cooperation agreements and pre-approved course mappings.
- Transfer students: Credits earned at other institutions before transferring to Kunming University are evaluated and recognized by the Academic Affairs Office based on course equivalence review.
- Online courses: Selected high-quality MOOCs recognized by the Ministry of Education may be recognized as elective credits upon approval.
- Innovation and entrepreneurship: Credits for innovation projects, discipline competitions, and research activities are recognized according to the university's existing innovation credit management measures.

2. Gap Analysis

The current case-by-case approach, while functional in practice, lacks the following elements required by international accreditation standards:

- A formal, written policy document that clearly defines the principles, scope, criteria, and procedures for credit recognition.
- Standardized application forms and evaluation templates to ensure consistency across different departments and programs.
- A transparent appeal mechanism for students who disagree with recognition decisions.
- A systematic database or record-keeping system to track all credit recognition decisions.
- Formal guidelines for ECTS credit conversion and prior learning assessment (RPL).
- Explicit policies for recognizing credits obtained through international exchange programs and foreign qualifications.

3. Improvement Plan

The university has recognized the importance of establishing a formal credit recognition policy and has included this in its academic management reform agenda. The following implementation plan has been developed:

Phase 1: Policy Drafting (September - December 2026)

The Academic Affairs Office will lead the drafting of the "Kunming University Measures for the Recognition of Externally Acquired Academic Credits and Qualifications", in consultation with all colleges and relevant departments. The draft will cover recognition principles, scope, criteria, procedures, credit conversion methods, quality assurance mechanisms, and appeal procedures.

Phase 2: Consultation and Review (January - February 2027)

The draft policy will be circulated for consultation among faculty, students, and administrative staff. Feedback will be collected and incorporated. The policy will then be reviewed by the University Academic Committee and approved by the University President's Office.

Phase 3: Implementation and Training (March 2027)

The approved policy will be officially promulgated and implemented. Training sessions will be organized for academic advisors, teaching secretaries, and relevant administrative staff to ensure consistent implementation. Standardized application forms and evaluation templates will be developed and distributed.

Phase 4: Monitoring and Continuous Improvement (from April 2027 onwards)

The implementation of the policy will be monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. The Academic Affairs Office will collect feedback and data on credit recognition applications, and make continuous improvements to the policy and procedures based on practical experience.

4. Interim Measures

Pending the formal adoption of the university-wide credit recognition policy, the College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering will implement the following interim measures to ensure transparent and consistent handling of credit recognition requests:

- All credit recognition applications shall be submitted in writing to the Teaching Affairs Office of the College, using a standardized application form.
- Each application shall be reviewed by the relevant course coordinator or teaching expert for course equivalence, and then approved by the Teaching Steering Committee of the College.
- The recognition decisions shall be documented in writing and communicated to the student within 15 working days.

- Students who disagree with the recognition decision may submit a written appeal to the Teaching Steering Committee for reconsideration.
- All credit recognition records shall be maintained by the Teaching Affairs Office and reported to the Academic Affairs Office of the University on a semester basis.

5. Commitment

Kunming University and the College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering are committed to establishing a comprehensive, transparent, and internationally aligned credit recognition system. The university views this as an essential component of its internationalization strategy and its commitment to providing high-quality engineering education. The implementation of the formal credit recognition policy will be completed within the next academic year, and the progress will be reported to ASIIN as part of the continuous improvement process.

College of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering

Kunming University

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