

August 19, 2002

TO: Members of the Faculty

FROM: Helen Scott, Chair Committee on Academic Standing

RE: Academic Year 2001-02 Annual Report

The duties of the Committee on Academic Standing are listed on pp. 18-20 of the Faculty Handbook.

The Committee met regularly to review petitions, waivers, and other requests concerning academic regulations. During January and June the Committee also reviewed the academic status of all students on the academic docket.

The number of dismissals, suspensions, and probations was slightly higher this past year. This year there were two dismissals and nine suspensions. During the January docket, two students were dismissed and five students were suspended; in June, no student was dismissed and four were suspended. Last year a total of three students were dismissed and seven were suspended. Ten students were placed on probation in the fall of '01 and fourteen in the spring of '02 resulting in a total thirty-one of compared to twenty-six last year. In the fall, nine students were removed from probation while twenty-five students were removed from probation in the spring.

The Subcommittee on Academic Honesty considered seventeen cases involving a total of twenty-seven students; last year the committee heard thirteen cases involving a total of twenty-six students, ten of whom were found guilty. This year nineteen of the twenty-seven students were found guilty. Of the nineteen cases resulting in a guilty decision, eight cases involved plagiarism, seven cases involved dishonest collaboration and four cases involved cheating on an exam. Penalties were consistently imposed for those found guilty of a first instance of dishonesty: zero on the assignment, calculation of the zero into the final grade, lowering of the resulting grade one full letter, and one or two semesters of academic dishonesty probation.

The committee sent the following recommendations to the faculty for approval regarding the minimum number of credits and terms of residency that must be completed at Grinnell by transfer students who matriculate after June 2002.

Transfer students who enter as:	Minimum number of credits completed at Grinnell
Second-semester first-year	92 min.
First-semester second-year	78 min.
Second-semester second-year	62 min.
First-semester third-year	62 min.

Students who matriculate as first-year students after June of 2002 must complete at least 6 semesters of full-time residence at Grinnell or 5 semesters of full-time residence at Grinnell and one semester of an approved off-campus study program. The program credits for one semester of an approved off-campus study program will be included in the minimum number of credits to be completed at Grinnell.

At the November 19, 2001 faculty meeting, faculty members expressed concern about the deadline set for the submission of final grades for fall 2001. The committee reviewed peer data about grade submission deadlines and information gathered by CAS in 1993, the last time the faculty asked the committee to review deadlines for grade submissions. This year we are at the end of our calendar cycle that causes the fall semester to end from December 15 to December 21; (due to leap year, this is the first time in twelve years that our semester has ended as late as December 21. Due to the late end of the semester, CAS revised the deadline for the submission of fall grades. Fall 2001 grades were due by noon on Tuesday, January 2, 2002.

For the fall 2002 term the last day of finals is on December 20. The committee reviewed several options and approved setting the due date for fall grades to be Monday December 30th at noon. This will allow the faculty 11 days rather than 7 days from the last day of finals to submit all grades.

The committee discussed the possibility of producing a more consistent policy in the consideration of students for honors. Since the Registrar's Office only compiles information for departments regarding students eligible for honors in the spring semester, the majority of our graduates who graduate in June are considered for honors after the completion of seven semesters of work. Students who complete their work in eight semesters with a December graduation are considered for honors by departments in the spring semester after graduation. In order to have a more consistent policy regarding honors all students will be reviewed for honors after the completion of a maximum of seven semesters.

The committee reaffirmed the current policy and procedure on late registration. In addition, it restated that students who know in advance that they may not be able to return to Grinnell within the first five days of classes must petition CAS in advance for permission to do so. Students encountering emergencies causing a delayed arrival, that arise on or just before the start of the semester must be directed to the Registrar so that he can determine what approval will be required for an extension, if possible, beyond the five days.

The committee approved that, as part of the annual CAS report to the full faculty each fall, the grade distribution for all full- credit (4- and 5-credit) courses will be distributed to the faculty. These are the same courses used to calculate class size and that receive the standard end-of-course evaluations. Short courses, independents, and the tutorial will be excluded from the report. The report will show the percent of all grades awarded that are A, A-, B+, etc. "S" grades will not be included.

Here is the grade distribution report for 2001-2002. The Registrar's Office has included information for four prior years:

GRADE	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
A	19.0%	21.7%	20.2%	21.6%	23.1%
A-	19.4%	18.8%	19.2%	20.5%	20.1%
B+	17.4%	18.3%	18.7%	18.3%	17.8%
B	19.9%	18.0%	19.2%	18.5%	17.6%
B-	9.2%	9.1%	9.1%	8.7%	8.1%
C+	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	4.8%
C	6.2%	5.6%	5.6%	4.9%	5.0%
D	1.6%	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%
F	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%
WF	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%
WP	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%