

July 20, 2004

TO: Members of the Faculty

FROM: Helen Scott, Chair Committee on Academic Standing

RE: Academic Year 2003-04 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 four dismissals and eighteen suspensions. During the January docket, two students were dismissed and six students were suspended; in June, two students were dismissed and twelve were suspended. Last year a total of three students were dismissed and ten were suspended. Twenty-four students were placed on probation in the fall of '03 and eighteen in the spring of '04 resulting in a total of forty-two compared to forty-one last year.

The Subcommittee on Academic Honesty considered ten cases involving a total of nine students; last year the committee heard nine cases involving a total of thirteen students, six of whom were found guilty. This year all nine students were found guilty (one student was found guilty twice). Of the ten cases resulting in a guilty decision, 7 cases involved plagiarism, 1 case involved cheating on an exam, and 2 cases (same student) involved academic dishonesty. 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. Two students were suspended for one semester each as this was their second offense while on academic honesty probation.

The committee approved deleting the following statement from the Catalog regarding transfer work from matriculated students from two-year institutions. Since we accept both 100- and 200- level courses from two-year institutions for transfer students, the committee found no reasons to restrict matriculated students from taking 200- level courses from two-year institutions.

“For matriculated students who want to transfer courses from two-year institutions, only 100-level, introductory courses will be accepted.”

The committee recommended to the faculty and the faculty approved the following policy regarding replacing the “WP” and “WF”:

**ADD/DROP PERIOD (WEEK 1 to 3);**

Courses can be dropped without a transcript entry. This is not a change in policy.

**COURSE WITHDRAWAL PERIOD (Week 4 to 9);**

Course may be dropped with a transcript entry of “W”

**Note: Courses dropped because of extreme circumstances beyond a student’s control will no longer be deleted from the transcript; students will receive the transcript entry of “W.”**

**EMERGENCY COURSE WITHDRAWAL (week 10 to 14);**

Courses cannot be dropped, except in extreme circumstances beyond a student’s control; with appropriate documentation, students will receive the transcript entry of “W.”

**Note: Courses dropped because of extreme circumstances will no longer be deleted from the transcript; students will receive the transcript entry of “W”.**

In addition, the committee brought the following recommendation to the faculty for approval:

That the faculty adopt a college-wide standard for awarding honors to students found guilty of academic dishonesty.

After the approval of this recommendation by the faculty, the committee further recommended that the faculty choose which of the following college-wide standards should be adopted:

1. No student convicted of academic dishonesty should be eligible for honors. This would allow the College to maintain the integrity of “honorific” without getting into gradations of “honorific.”
2. Academic dishonesty convictions should have no bearing on eligibility for honors. This would allow the College to maintain that the punishment awarded by CAS is sufficient. Further punishment by way of withdrawing eligibility for honors is not necessary.
3. CAS should establish guidelines for eligibility based on the level of punishment imposed for academic dishonesty. This option would allow some but not all students found guilty of academic dishonesty to be eligible for honors.

After a lengthy discussion of the above three options, a motion was made and passed that CAS further discuss the options in light of the faculty discussion and return in the fall with a recommendation for faculty approval.

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 (no short courses or independents; the tutorial would also be excluded) will be distributed. These are the same courses used to calculate class size and that receive the standard end-of-course evaluations. The report will show the percent of all grades awarded that are A, A-, B+, etc. "Pass" grades will not be included at this time.

<b>GRADE</b>	<b><u>1997-98</u></b>	<b><u>1998-99</u></b>	<b><u>1999-00</u></b>	<b><u>2000-01</u></b>	<b><u>2001-02</u></b>	<b><u>2002-03</u></b>	<b><u>2003-04</u></b>
A	19.0%	21.7%	20.2%	21.6%	23.1%	24.8%	24.6%
A-	19.4%	18.8%	19.2%	20.5%	20.1%	21.9%	21.8%
B+	17.4%	18.3%	18.7%	18.3%	17.8%	18.7%	17.8%
B	19.9%	18.0%	19.2%	18.5%	17.6%	17.5%	15.3%
B-	9.2%	9.1%	9.1%	8.7%	8.1%	7.2%	7.7%
C+	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	4.8%	3.1%	3.8%
C	6.2%	5.6%	5.6%	4.9%	5.0%	3.6%	5.5%
D	1.6%	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.0%	1.5%
F	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%