

June 29, 2005

TO: Members of the Faculty

FROM: Jon Chenette, Chair Committee on Academic Standing

RE: Academic Year 2004-05 Annual Report

CAS is charged with implementing the academic rules of the College, overseeing the College calendar, and acting on petitions involving exceptions to the College's academic requirements. Among its major duties are deliberating on the academic status of students whose academic performance falls short of base-line College standards and acting on cases involving possible transgressions of the College's academic integrity policies.

The number of dismissals, suspensions, and probations was slightly higher this year. There were six dismissals and twenty suspensions, compared to four dismissals and eighteen suspensions last year. During the January docket, two students were dismissed and thirteen students were suspended; in June, four students were dismissed and seven were suspended. Twenty-five students were placed on probation in the fall of '04 and ten in the spring of '05 resulting in a total of thirty-five probations compared to forty-two last year.

The Subcommittee on Academic Honesty considered 18 cases involving a total of 26 students. This year 22 students were found guilty. Of the 23 guilty cases (one student was found guilty twice) resulting in a guilty decision, 6 cases involved plagiarism, 2 cases involved cheating on an exam, and 15 cases 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.

In fall 2004, the Committee on Academic Standing recommended and the faculty approved the following policy regarding honors and academic honesty:

In those relatively rare instances when CAS determines a less-than-normal penalty (the normal penalty is a grade of zero in the exercise, lowering of the course grade by one full letter, and one semester of academic probation) is appropriate <for an academic honesty infraction>, students will still be eligible for graduation with honors. In other words, any students convicted of academic dishonesty with the normal penalty or with a more severe penalty are not eligible to graduate with honors.

This motion completed unfinished business from 2003-04, when the Committee on Academic Standing recommended and the faculty adopted a proposal that there be a college-wide standard for awarding honors to students found guilty of academic dishonesty, without defining what that standard should be.

The Committee approved a revision of catalog copy pertaining to *Honesty in Academic Work* prepared by members of the Grinnell College Writing Lab and the 2004-05 Tutorial Committee. Among the changes is an enhanced treatment of integrity in collaborative projects, a kind of work which faculty members at Grinnell increasingly assign. Along with other information pertaining to academic integrity, this information on academic integrity was compiled into a new booklet titled *Academic Honesty: The Ethical Use of Sources, Collaboration, and Scholarly Integrity at Grinnell College*, which will be printed and distributed to incoming students through their tutorials in the fall of 2005.

CAS has regular procedures in place for students who wish to appeal an academic honesty decision or the Committee's decision concerning a case of substandard academic performance. This year, the Committee decided that appeals of other CAS decisions will be directed to the chair of CAS for consideration and advice on a case-by-case basis.

The Deans presented CAS with a proposal endorsed by the Curriculum Committee reducing the final exam schedule from 9 to 8 periods next year to make room for three full reading days from the end of classes to the beginning of exams, Saturday through Monday. CAS approved using this new exam and reading day schedule for 2005-06, stipulating that it be reviewed at the end of 2005-06.

The Committee approved the following proposal regarding policies pertaining to registration for half-semester courses:

The add/drop deadline for half-semester courses will be the second Friday of the course. This shall also be the period during which students may change between regular and S/D/F grading and between "credit" and "audit" options in their registration. After the Add/drop period, students may withdraw from half-semester courses through the Friday of the fourth full week of the course with a transcript entry of W. Beyond this date only emergency withdrawals are allowed.

CAS annually reports to the faculty the grade distribution for all full-credit (4- and 5-credit) courses campus-wide (no short courses, independents, practica, or tutorials). These are the same courses used to calculate class size and for which we conduct standard end-of-course evaluations. The report shows the percent of all grades awarded that are A, A-, B+, etc. "Pass" grades are omitted.

GRADE	<u>1997-98</u>	<u>1998-99</u>	<u>1999-00</u>	<u>2000-01</u>	<u>2001-02</u>	<u>2002-03</u>	<u>2003-04</u>	<u>2004-05#</u>	<u>2004-05</u>
A	19.0%	21.7%	20.2%	21.6%	23.1%	24.8%	24.6%	2407	24.4%
A-	19.4%	18.8%	19.2%	20.5%	20.1%	21.9%	21.8%	2060	20.9%
B+	17.4%	18.3%	18.7%	18.3%	17.8%	18.7%	17.8%	1693	17.2%
B	19.9%	18.0%	19.2%	18.5%	17.6%	17.5%	15.3%	1594	16.2%
B-	9.2%	9.1%	9.1%	8.7%	8.1%	7.2%	7.7%	763	7.7%
C+	4.9%	4.5%	4.2%	4.0%	4.8%	3.1%	3.8%	430	4.4%
C	6.2%	5.6%	5.6%	4.9%	5.0%	3.6%	5.5%	452	4.6%
D	1.6%	1.3%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.0%	1.5%	138	1.4%
F	1.3%	1.0%	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.9%	94	1.0%
WF	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0	0.0%
WP	1.1%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	0	0.0%
W	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	237	2.4%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	9868	100.0%