

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of the City University of New York
Committee on Academic Standing
Minutes of October 11, 2017

Present: Rasheen Allen (Biology), Erica Arcelay (SGA), Bryan Betancur (Modern Language), Gregory Cobb (Social Sciences), Teresa Fisher (Communication), Alam Gonzalez (SGA – Student; arrived at 2:30, left at 2:58), Eugene Mananga (Engineering, Physics and Technology), Octavio Melendez (Advisement, OAA), Sharmila Mukherjee (English), Elda Polanco (SGA), Stephen Powers (Education), Stacia Reader (HPER), Anita Rivers (Registrar), Shirley Skelt (Appeals Agent), Sa-Rawla Stoute (Student Dev) (arrived at 2:17; left at 3:11), James Watson (Library)

Present Alternates: Olusola Alamu (Nursing) – seated, Andrea Ortuño (Art and Music) -- seated, James Simpson (Business) – seated, Marjaline Vizcarrondo (Social Sciences)

Guests: Alexander Ott (OAA)

Absent/Excused: Nicholas Anuku (Chemistry), Anthony Gatto (Art & Music) – on sabbatical, Paul Jajairam (Business), Ellen Mareneck (Communication), Alnisa Shabazz (Nursing), Wladyslaw Rocznik (History), Enyuan Shang (Biology), Kaemanje Thomas (Education), Karen Thomas (Registrar), Susan Zybert (Math), 2 SGA reps

1. **Call to Order:** 2:07 P.M., meeting called to order by Stephen Powers.
2. **Approval of the Minutes of September 27, 2017:** The September 27, 2017 minutes were reviewed for informational purposes only.
3. **Student Appeals**
 - a. **Sub-committee of 9/20 results:** Shirley Skelt presented the 9 appeals. The appeals were approved by 15 in favor, none opposed, and one abstention (A. Rivers). *Sa-Rawla Stoute and Alam Gonzalez were not yet present for the vote.*
4. **CLEP Credits:** Alexander Ott updated the members on this matter. He is soliciting departmental feedback on the previously presented memo.
5. **CUNY Uniform Grade Glossary:** This was the third meeting in which the proposed policies were discussed.
 - a. **Section XI:** *The grade of “P” or “NC” may be given as part of a ‘Pass/No Pass’ agreement between a student and instructor. In order to receive this grade, a student needs to continue attending the class, complete all assignments, and take the final exam. If a passing grade is earned (A+ through D-), the student will receive a grade of ‘P’ and credit for the course with no impact on GPA. If a failing grade is earned (F), the student will receive a grade of NC which does not affect the GPA. This option must be requested prior to the last day a student can withdraw and receive a grade of “W” via an agreement with the Office of the Registrar. Students must remain in compliance with Federal and State Satisfactory Academic Progress guidelines. Colleges may place additional restrictions on the use of this option which must be clearly stated in their bulletin and on their website.*
 - **Additional Restrictions**
 - The agreement will take place prior to the final day a student can withdraw and receive a grade of W.

- The agreement will be between the student and the instructor, and must be filed with the Office of the Registrar. The P/NC form will be available from the Office of the Registrar. The instructor does not have to grant the P/NC request from the student.
- A student will be eligible for a maximum of two P/NC grades while attending BCC.
- P/NC is not an option for courses in a major that require a specific minimum grade and/or have specific requirements due to programmatic accreditation or licensure regulations.

Members reported back from their departments. Andrea Ortuño noted that Art and Music were wondering if a GPA restriction should be added. James Watson noted the Library also had questions about the efficacy of the restrictions. Questions were asked and answered. S. Powers proposed that the language in the policy be adjusted to reflect local use restrictions (without altering the CUNY-mandated policy itself). With respect to whether or not the policy has to be implemented at all, S. Powers and others noted that CUNY does allow for the P/NC grade and thus it is a matter of establishing a process for its use so that students will use it in a way that best benefits their academic progress while maintaining the integrity of the BCC degree. It was noted that most questions about restrictions will be addressed in the form that students will use to request the P/NC grade. So that members can get additional feedback from their departments, the vote was postponed until the next meeting.

- b. **Section XIII:** *A college may choose to offer a First Year Freshman Forgiveness policy. If the student passes the course, they will receive the grade earned which will carry the designated GPA. If the student fails the course, the grade will be administratively converted to NC and have no impact on the GPA. This policy is limited to first year Freshman as defined by the college.*

Members reported back from their departments. Discussion ensued. S. Powers noted that concerns about the policy stem primarily from three areas: the integrity of a BCC degree, the financial aid impact, and student accountability. He emphasized the importance, which was echoed by many members, of the need to embed support for students in navigating their college experience into the policy, as many are woefully unprepared for the rigors of higher education. Additional data will be collected from the past year to get a sense of the number of students who might take advantage of this potential policy. Discussion about the scope of the policy – 12 to 15 credits, first semester or first year only – was also discussed. Members are to seek additional feedback from their departments before the next meeting.

6. **New Business:** None.

7. **Adjournment:** 3:47 P.M.

Next meeting is scheduled for October 25, 2017, from 2-4 p.m. in the South Hall Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,
Teresa A. Fisher, Recording Secretary

Handouts:

- Academic Appeals update
- Draft of CLEP credits memo
- CUNY Uniform Grade Policy memo from March 2017
- Queens College First Year Freshman Forgiveness Policy