

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
of the City University of New York  
**Committee on Academic Standing**  
Minutes of April 10, 2019 (South Hall 109)

**Present:** Nicholas Anuku (Chem), Gregory Cobb (Soc Sci), Laurel Cummins (Mod Lang), Cynthia S. Espinal (CD, non-voting), Teresa Fisher (CommAS), Anthony Gatto (A&M), Mehdi Lejmi (Math), Eugene Mananga (Eng Phy Tech), Octavio Melendez (Adv, OAA), Sharmila Mukherjee (Eng), Stephen Powers (Edu), Stacia Reader (HPER), Wladyslaw Roczniak (Hist), Alnisa Shabazz (Nurs), Enyuan Shang (Bio), Shirley Skelt (Appeals Agent, non-voting), James Watson (Library)

**Present Alternates:** Anthony Cuevas (SGA) – seated, Kelmin Gutierrez (Student) – seated, Norval Overstreet (Student) -- seated, Anita Rivers (Registrar) – seated, James Simpson (Bus) – seated, Marjaline Vizcarrondo (Soc Sci)

**Guests:** (none)

**Absent/Excused:** Ken Boothe (Student), Stephanie Dorleans (SGA), Paul Jaijairam (Bus), Lottine Nkwain (SGA), Miles Sudlow (Student), Karen Thomas (Registrar)

1. **Call to Order:** 2:05 P.M., meeting called to order by S. Powers.
2. **Approval of the March 27, 2019, Minutes:** The March 27th minutes were approved unanimously by the 13 members present who were at that meeting. (*E. Mananga and E. Shang arrived after the vote.*)
3. **Student Appeals:** S. Skelt reported on the 14 appeals heard on 4/3/19. Ten were granted, three were tabled, and one was denied. After a brief discussion, the members unanimously approved the appeals.
4. **New Business – Revisiting the Valedictorian/Salutatorian guidelines:** Due to the new P/NC grade policy, the Valedictorian/Salutatorian guidelines will need revision. S. Powers noted the sub-committee of Alexander Ott, P. Jaijairam, and W. Roczniak will be meeting to discuss it.
5. **Report from Senate on 3/28/19:** S. Powers updated members on the items he presented to the Senate. The MEDP and Nursing proposals both passed. There were no questions on the codification clarification of credits attempted language or the First Year Freshman Forgiveness policy, both of which were presented for the first time. Questions were asked of the Honors Program proposal to the codification, which was also presented for the first time (see agenda). Those three will return to the next Senate meeting where they will each be eligible for a vote.
6. **F Replacement, Statute, Repeat Course:** (see agenda) S. Powers presented a complicated situation regarding a student who took a course four times (2 Fs, 1 D, and 1 A) and asked for discussion as well as recommendations from the members. Due to changes that came with CUNYFirst (which averages the two passing grades in these circumstances), BCC's current policy regarding courses for which students receive a passing grade below a C may need to be revisited (8.1.5).
7. **New Business:** None
8. **Adjournment:** 2:54 P.M.

The final meeting of the academic year is scheduled for May 8, 2019, from 2-4 p.m. in South Hall 109.

Respectfully Submitted,



Teresa A. Fisher, Recording Secretary

Handouts: agenda

## COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDING

April 10, 2019 - 2:00 – 4:00

South Hall

### AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes from 3/27/19** Teresa Fisher
  
2. **Student Appeals** Shirley Skelt
  - a. Sub-Committee from 4/3/19
  
3. **New Business**
  - a. Revisiting the Valedictorian/Salutatorian guidelines  
Due to the P/NC grade policy from last spring
  
4. **Senate for 3/28**
  - a. MEDP proposal to a vote (I miscounted necessary presentations) PASSED
  - b. Nursing changes for a vote PASSED
  - c. First presentation of new language for credits attempted NO QUESTIONS\*\*
  - d. First presentation of First Year Freshman Forgiveness NO QUESTIONS
  - e. Honor Program – Questions!
    - 1)What makes an Honors class? Other than interactive assignments that emphasize “team building, critical thinking and strong writing skills.”
    - 2)Shouldn’t there be some understanding of what an Honors class requires as was the case with WI courses?
    - 3)Since no one is necessarily trained to teach an Honors class, how did “team building” become a part of the language?
    - 4)Same as for Honors contracts. If there is no understanding as to what an Honors contract would include, how are there any standards across the school? The truth is, although an Honors contract is a good idea in theory, (enabling students who wish a deeper dive into the subject matter), the contract doesn’t come close to giving students the same experience as a true Honors class.
    - 5)What are we doing for faculty who do two contracts? The academic system works on a financial model that heavily relies on the faculty doing things out of the goodness of their hearts—for the sheer joy of teaching. I think faculty deserve more. If the school wants to go this route, they should figure out some compensation/honorarium/release time.
    - 6)I don’t think having four Honors contracts equaling an Honors Scholar for the above reasons. At most, two Honors contracts.
    - 7)There is no indication of what a community engagement project would be, what the requirements might be or assessment would look like, or even the credentials of the people overseeing such a completely unique, and hitherto unknown concept (on this campus at least).
  
5. **F Replacement, Statute, Repeat Course**

Student took a course. Got an F.

Took it again, got another F.

Took it a third time and earned a D.

Naturally CUNY FIRST decided to take the F's out with the D.

We are amending that.

The student then took the course again (I know, you cannot repeat a course that has a passing grade except for the noted codified exceptions.

Student got an A (only at BCC, my friends).

I was called, by Syria Carrington to see if the A could take out the F's.

My answer, no.

She agreed. Then she read what CUNY FIRST was doing, as in taking the D and the A and averaging them. So the student got a 1.00 for the D and a 4.0 for the A, and of course the F's were taken out previously by the D, so the student has a 2.5 for the course.

I disagreed. Not with Syria, with CUNY FIRST.

I believe the student has the two Fs and the D. Nine credits. GPA of 0.33 for the course. The A is irrelevant, well for the moment, as this onion has some layers to it. The relevant, thought not perfectly fitting, section of the codification is 8.1.5 a.:

**8.1.5 Grade improvement and repetition of courses**

**a. Courses passed with grades of D- or higher may not be repeated for purposes of grade improvement.**

You have a D in a course. You somehow re-take the course and get an A. We do not replace the grade. But to average the A and the D would be to improve the grade, and hence violates the codification.

Logically, taking the F's out of the discussion, the course cannot be repeated to gain an improved grade.

Now for the complicated part.

Statute.

The 2 Fs and the D are all eligible to come out under Statute.

So, if the student takes two other courses, gets C or better, the 2 Fs and the D can all come out. BUT! Can the A be included as it was not just an additional course, but rather a repeated course which cannot improve the grade?

Or, and now this get SOOOOOO picky, if the student takes another course, and under statute removes the D, can the A take out the two previous F's under F replacement?

I just like to start your weekend off with a bang.

### Upcoming meetings Spring 2019

(4/24 – no meeting, spring recess)

5/8 – a very important meeting as we must have quorum to give Registrar right to graduate