

Committee on Academic Standing
MINUTES for September 14, 2016

PRESENT:

Charmaine Aleong, Rasheen Allen, Nicholas Anuku, Grace Campagna, Gregory Cobb (*alt., Social Sciences*) Muhammed Conta, Teresa Fisher, Kenya Harris, Paul Jajairam, Octavio Melendez, Chiazoka Onyegwara, Stephen Powers, Angel Resto, Brandon Robinson, Enyuan Shang (*alt., Biology*), Karen Thomas, James Watson, Suzanne Zybert. *Absent/Excused*: Sharmila Mukherjee, Ahmed Reid, Shirley Skelt (*Appeals Agent*), Sa-Rawla Stoute. *Guests*: Mara Lazda (for History Department), Alexander Ott, Sanjay Ramdath, Edwin Roman.

The meeting commenced at 2:05 PM.

I. Election of Chair and Recording Secretary *Karen Thomas*

Stephen Powers was re-elected Chair of CAS by acclamation. Grace Campagna was re-elected Recording Secretary by acclamation.

II. Approval of the Minutes *Grace Campagna*

The draft Minutes of May 11th were circulated and reviewed. Lacking a quorum of CAS members present on that date, approval is tabled to a later meeting.

III. Announcements *Stephen Powers*

A. Introductions

New student members include Muhammed Conta, Chiazoka Onyegwara, and Brandon Robinson. Enyuan Shang is the new alternate for the Biology Department. Mara Lazda is attending today for the History Department.

B. Isabel Mirsky *Stephen Powers*

Isabel Mirsky, the former chair of CAS, has retired but is invited to attend the September 28th meeting. CAS members discussed how to honor her for her years of service.

B. Student Appeals Subcommittees *Stephen Powers*

S. Powers reviewed the appeals process. Future subcommittee dates (on alternate Wednesdays when CAS does not meet) will be confirmed by Shirley Skelt.

IV. Old Business

A. Amendments to Foreign Language Exemption Policy *Stephen Powers*

S. Powers and A. Resto summarized proposed changes previously presented to CAS during Spring 2016, but which did not carry in motions at the May 11th meeting and were tabled to the current semester. The changes would formalize the policy currently in the College Catalog as to acceptance of two years of high-school level foreign language instruction and

would also amend the Codification so that exemptions would require a minimum average grade of 85 (or B for high schools that use letter grades). An alternate amendment would eliminate the Modern Language exemption for high school coursework. CAS asked that the Department inform how many students would be affected, whether exempted students have to take another language, and whether the Curriculum Committee should also review the proposed change. On September 28th, Modern Languages Chairperson Alexander Lamazares will again present the amendments to CAS.

B. Reintroduction of NC Grade

Stephen Powers

This item, to assign the NC grade rather than the F grade to students who pass the credit-bearing portion of ENG 10 but have not yet passed the CAT-W test, was approved by CAS on April 13th but has yet to be presented to the BCC Senate. S. Powers will contact the English Department.

V. New Business

A. Standards for Dean's List and President's List

Edwin Roman

Identifying eligible part-time students has been complicated because CUNYfirst has not been able to compute grade point averages in the required 12-credit interval across multiple semesters. It is proposed that the part-time credit accumulation period be changed to a calendar year or that separate lists exist for full-time and part-time students. CAS discussed the implications of the proposal. A. Ott, S. Ramdath, and E. Roman will verify CUNYfirst capabilities to handle such a revision. CAS also discussed the need to recognize at commencement the graduating students who had attained high cumulative GPA.

B. Selection of Valedictorian

Alexander Ott

Dean Ott described criteria used in the selection of Commencement Valedictorian in recent years, under Codification section 11.7, Graduation Honors. CAS discussed the relative merit of the criteria for breaking ties among several students with 4.0 GPA, and instances when more than one student would be chosen. Volunteers for a subcommittee to address this matter are M. Conta, K. Harris, P. Jaijairam, A. Resto, and J. Watson.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 PM. The next CAS meeting will be held at 2 PM on Wednesday, September 28th, in the South Hall Conference Room. Other CAS meetings this semester will be October 26th, November 9th, and December 14th (tentative during final exams).

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Campagna
Recording Secretary