

Committee on Academic Standing

MINUTES for May 11, 2016 (DRAFT)

PRESENT:

Charmaine Aleong, Rasheen Allen, Grace Campagna, Franchesca Castillo, Gregory Cobb (*seated alt., Social Sciences*) Teresa Fisher, Kenya Harris, Paul Jajairam, Chariah Joseph, Eugene Mananga, Octavio Melendez, Sharmila Mukherjee, Steven Mulkhan, Andrea Ortuño (*seated alt., Art & Music*), Stephen Powers, Ahmed Reid, Angel Resto, Shirley Skelt (*Acting Appeals Agent*), Sa-Rawla Stoute, Karen Thomas, James Watson, Suzanne Zybert. *Guest:* Alexander Lamazares.

The meeting commenced at 2:10 PM. (*Note:* Vote tallies vary due to late arrivals.)

I. Approval of the Minutes *Grace Campagna*

(*Note:* This item occurred after the discussion but before the votes as to the proposed Modern Language amendment.) The draft Minutes of February 10th, February 24th, March 9th (not yet approved lacking a quorum at prior meetings of those present each date), and April 13th were circulated and reviewed. A motion to approve the Minutes of February 10th was approved, 14 in favor, none opposed, six abstaining: Castillo, Joseph, Mukherjee, Mulkhan, Reid, Thomas. The Minutes of February 24th remain for information only. A motion to approve the Minutes of March 9th was approved, 14 in favor, none opposed, six abstaining: Aleong, Harris, Jajairam, Reid, Stoute, Watson. A motion to approve the Minutes of April 13th was approved, 16 in favor, none opposed, four abstaining: Mananga, Ortuño, Reid, Thomas.

II. Subcommittee on Student Appeals *Shirley Skelt*

(*Note:* This item occurred after approval of the Minutes.) Shirley Skelt distributed a chart summarizing the actions of the May 4th subcommittee. A motion to accept the recommendations as to the 11 Administrative cases was approved unanimously. A motion to accept the recommendation as to the one Statute case was approved, 19 in favor, none opposed, one abstaining: Castillo. CAS members who are available for the May 20th subcommittee meeting are asked to contact Shirley Skelt or Stephen Powers.

III. Old Business

A. Amendment to Foreign Language Exemption Policy *Alexander Lamazares*

The proposed amendment first presented by the Modern Language Department on April 13th would formalize the policy currently in the College Catalog as to acceptance of two years of high-school level foreign language instruction and would amend the Codification so that exemptions would require a minimum average grade of 85 (or B for high schools that use letter grades). The change would eliminate the need for case-by-case departmental

approval of each such exemption. CAS concerns included that BCC is the only CUNY community college to grant such exemptions, whether placement tests already serve to enroll advanced students at the correct level, whether the need for the proposed amendment is anecdotal rather than based on student performance data, that the Modern Language requirement in many curricula may be a burden for ESL students, whether native speakers have functional literacy in their native language, and the need for second language proficiency in many careers.

A motion to abolish the Modern Language exemption did not carry: seven in favor; two opposed: Fisher, Mulkhan; ten abstaining: Aleong, Allen, Jaijairam, Joseph, Melendez, Powers, Stoute, Thomas, Watson, Zybert.

A motion to codify the proposed amendment to exempt students from the Modern Language requirement if they have a minimum average grade of 85 or B for two years' high school study did not carry: four in favor; two opposed: Fisher, Harris; 14 abstaining: Aleong, Allen, Castillo, Cobb, Joseph, Mananga, Melendez, Mukherjee, Mulkhan, Powers, Reid, Thomas, Watson, Zybert.

The item is tabled until September.

IV. New Business (*Note: These items were considered at the start of the meeting.*)

A. Conferral of Degrees

Stephen Powers

A motion to enable the Office of the Registrar to grant degrees to all students who have met the requirements for the AA, AS, AAS, or Certificate Programs as of May 2016 or as of August 2016 was approved, 15 in favor, none opposed, two abstaining: Allen, Mananga (*Stoute, Thomas, Zybert not yet present*).

B. Summer Executive Session

Stephen Powers

A motion to enable an Executive Committee of CAS to decide student appeals during the Summer 2016 session was approved unanimously (*Stoute, Thomas, Zybert not yet present*).

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM. The first CAS meeting of the Fall 2016 semester will be at a date, time, and location to be confirmed.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Campagna
Recording Secretary