

Committee on Academic Standing

MINUTES for September 28, 2016 (DRAFT revised October 10th)

PRESENT:

Charmaine Aleong, Rasheen Allen, Nicholas Anuku, Grace Campagna, Syria Carrington (*alt., Registrar*), Gregory Cobb (*seated alt., Social Sciences*) Muhammed Conta, Deavan DrePaul, Teresa Fisher, Anthony Gatto, Kenya Harris, Paul Jaijairam, Eugene Mananga, Octavio Melendez, Sharmila Mukherjee, Stephen Powers, Stacia Reader (*new as of next meeting, HPER Dept.*), Angel Resto, Brandon Robinson, Enyuan Shang (*alt., Biology*), Shirley Skelt (*Appeals Agent*), Sa-Rawla Stoute; Karen Thomas, James Watson, Suzanne Zybert. *Guests:* Alexander Lamazares, Isabel Mirsky, Alicia Bralove Ramirez. *Note: Vote tallies vary due to late arrivals.*

The meeting commenced at 2:08 PM.

I. Approval of the Minutes *Grace Campagna*

The draft Minutes of September 14th were circulated and reviewed. The Department of Modern Languages requested a change to item IV.A. to reflect the second proposed amendment to the Foreign Language Exemption Policy: the elimination of the high school exemption. The Minutes of September 14th were approved as amended, 18 in favor, none opposed, three abstaining: Mananga, Mukherjee, Stoute. (DrePaul, Gatto not yet present.)

II. Announcements *Stephen Powers*

A. Fall Semester Calendar

CAS is reminded that there will be no meeting on Wednesday, October 12th since classes are cancelled that date.

B. Appeals Subcommittees *Shirley Skelt*

S. Skelt summarized the summer session Executive Committee appeals actions, which included 244 Administrative cases granted, 11 Statute of Limitations cases granted, 162 Waiver of Dismissals granted, and ten cases denied overall. Meeting dates during the Fall semester will be October 5th, November 16th, and December 7th. A sign-up sheet for those dates was circulated. S. Powers gave an overview of the appeals procedures.

III. Old Business

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

A. Lamazares, Chair of the Modern Languages Department, distributed a Proposal to Amend the Foreign Language Exemption Policy, which compared proposed changes with the current College Catalogue text, gave a rationale for the change, listed affected degree programs and relevant Codification sections, summarized number of such exemptions granted at BCC yearly since 2010, and listed other CUNY colleges' exemption practices

for high school study and Advanced Placement exams. The current proposal resulted from consultation with the Curriculum Committee and would take effect in Summer 2017.

CAS members noted several implications of the proposed change with regard to placement based on native languages and study at non-US high schools, the number of exemptions and credits that students had been granted in the past, how such students reallocated their credits to other courses, and CUNY senior colleges' treatment of Pathways diplomas.

In anticipation of CAS action at its next meeting on October 26th, CAS members are asked to obtain departmental feedback at their meetings on Thursday, October 13th. The specific provision to be eliminated is: "Students who enter with successful completion of two years of a foreign language in high school have fulfilled their college language requirement." S. Powers noted that the two salient rationales for the proposed elimination of the Modern Language high school exemption are: a) that New York State no longer offers standardized Regents examinations in modern languages, and b) that the numerical and letter grades given at the numerous high schools attended by incoming BCC students are comparable neither among high schools nor to college-level study.

A. Selection of Valedictorian and Salutatorian *Stephen Powers*

S. Powers informed that the proposed revision to Codification section 11.7, Graduation Honors, first presented to CAS on September 28th, was withdrawn. S. Powers thanked A. Ott, M. Conta, K. Harris, P. Jaijairam, A. Resto, and J. Watson for their subcommittee work to address criteria for selection of commencement valedictorian and salutatorian.

B. Standards for Dean's List and President's List *Stephen Powers*

This item is tabled to the October 26th CAS meeting.

IV. New Business

Recognition of Isabel Mirsky *Stephen Powers*

S. Powers described the contributions of Isabel Mirsky during her years as Chairperson of the Committee on Academic Standing. CAS members and guests shared comments, and S. Powers thanked S. Carrington and K. Thomas for organizing today's commemoration.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 PM. The next CAS meeting will be held at 2 PM on Wednesday, October 26th, in the South Hall Conference Room. Other CAS meetings this semester will be November 9th, and December 14th (tentative during final exams).

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Campagna
Recording Secretary