

## BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

of the City University of New York

### **Committee on Academic Standing**

Minutes of September 23, 2020 (web conference [Zoom])

**Present:** Yeury Aguero (Student), Jaheim Archibald (Student), Gregory Cobb (Soc Sc), Laurel Cummins (World Lang), Teresa Fisher (CommAS), Anthony Gatto (A&M), Janet Heller (HPER), Paul Jajairam (Bus), Noah Jampol (Eng), Mehdi Lejmi (Math), Eugene Mananga (Eng Phy Tech), Octavio Melendez (Adv, OAA), Stephen Powers (Edu), Daniel Quiros (Student), Wladyslaw Roczniak (Hist), Vivian Rodriguez (Nurs), Celine Sanders (SGA), Enyuan Shang (Bio), Karen Thomas (Registrar), James Watson (Library)

**Present Alternates:** Carlos Cruz (CommAS), Ivan Horozov (Math), Edward Lehner (Edu), James Simpson (Bus)

**Guests:** Alexander Ott (OAA)

**Absent/Excused:** Nicholas Anuku (Chem), Cheryl Byrd (Appeals Agent), Cynthia S. Espinal (CD), unassigned (SGA)

1. **Call to Order:** At 2:03 P.M., meeting called to order by S. Powers. The meeting was recorded.
2. **Approval of the September 9, 2020, minutes:** The minutes from 9/9/2020 were approved unanimously by the 19 seated members present who were at that meeting.
3. **Item from Senate:** (see handout) S. Powers presented for the members' consideration from the Senate regarding if all Senate committees should have representation from every department. Discussion ensued. J. Heller noted that this proposal would be a huge burden for smaller departments, which L. Cummins and S. Powers echoed. V. Rodriguez also noted that meeting times can be a challenge for sitting on committees.
4. **Student Appeals and Fall sub-committee dates:** In C. Bird's absence, S. Powers briefly updated on the current appeal situation including approximately 661 students who are currently enrolled in classes without an approved financial aid allocation. In reviewing the list, Powers noted that more than half are in a situation where they need an academic appeal to improve their academic standing. Outreach from advisors to those students is underway. Powers noted, as a result, we may be seeing 300 or more academic appeals in the coming weeks. Six were received today. G. Cobb, P. Jajairam, T. Fisher, and S. Powers will continue to review incoming academic appeals until the rest of the committee can be trained on the digital process and a sub-committee schedule is established.
5. **College Now Grades:** (see handout) Discussion resumed on the proposal to implement the CUNY College Now grading scale for College Now students. S. Powers discussed examples of students for whom the current policy impacted their financial aid status as incoming students. He will send redacted examples to faculty who would like to see them. Questions were raised regarding the retroactive part of the proposed policy including if students should be consulted before a change is made to their previous College Now course grade and how far back the retroactive policy should go. Discussion ensued. S. Powers will send a revised proposal to members. Members were asked to bring the proposal to their departments.
6. **Summer credit limit:** Should a credit summer limit be implemented to prevent students from signing up for too many courses in a single summer session? Currently, only students on probation have a limit on summer credits. We do not want to penalize students who can

succeed in taking multiple courses in a summer session, but also not harm students who cannot. Discussion ensued. S. Powers will request data on how many students sign up for multiple courses in a summer session, how many succeed, and how many fail. A GPA cap was offered as a solution as well as making sure students are clear on the differences between 3-week, 5-week, etc. sessions. Members were asked to bring this query to their departments.

7. **Valedictorian/Salutatorian:** (see current policy listed on agenda) Discussion continued on how or if to address the CR/NC pandemic grading policy from Spring 2020 as well as January graduation versus June graduation in the current valedictorian/salutatorian policy. For example, the CR/NC from Spring 2020 is not supposed to negatively impact students, as per that policy, so how should CR/NC grades from Spring 2020 be viewed if on the transcript of a student eligible for valedictorian/salutatorian? With respect to January versus June graduation, for the June graduate, their final semester of classes is not included in the valedictorian/salutatorian deliberations (the committee meets in April). A. Ott proposed leaving the policy as it currently stands. Members were asked to bring this to their departments as S. Powers would like the policy reviewed to ensure the criteria is fair under the aforementioned situations, which may result in leaving it as is.
8. **Adjournment:** 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting of the fall semester is scheduled for October 28, 2020, from 2-4 p.m. Additional fall semester meetings are scheduled for November 11(not 11/25 as classes follow a Friday schedule) and December 9. Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.

Respectfully Submitted,



Teresa A. Fisher, Recording Secretary

Handouts: agenda, Franklin Moore letter (Senate), revised College Now grading schema proposal

Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/7aIDtrdo8XLe6hSXeamhPZ6qGIDg5EZPBXGm0vrwk3DAoRxY3y4IGCxJwJ7ySI7B.cK20P0ctBbx0lmdZ>

Access Passcode: py#4P.&u

## COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDING

September 23, 2020 - 2:00 – 4:00

Topic: CAS 9/23/20

Time: Sep 23, 2020 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92102780410>

Meeting ID: 921 0278 0410

### AGENDA

1. **Call to Order and Announcements** Steve Powers
  2. **Approval of Minutes from 9/9/20** Teresa Fisher
  3. **Item from Senate** Steve Powers  
Should all committees on Senate have representation from every department? Some committees (CASCIPD, Curriculum) have a robust (22) membership, and some have less. See attached statement (F. Moore) for “moore” details
  4. **Student Appeals and Fall Sub-Committee Dates** Cheryl Byrd
  5. **College Now Grades (see below)** Steve Powers  
Whether to implement the CUNY College Now Grading Scale A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, INC, W (student initiated), NC
  6. **PLA Policy from CUNY (sent with agenda)** Alex Ott  
<https://www.cuny.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/page-assets/about/trustees/meetings-of-the-board/CAPPRAgenda060820.pdf>
- Current Codification
- 10.5 Exemptions by prior learning assessment**
- a. Academic departments may choose to offer an opportunity for students to earn credit via prior learning assessment of learning of an academic nature that has taken place outside the traditional college classroom. This learning may have occurred in any variety of venues, including but not limited to the following: work or training experience (e.g., police academy, military), coursework completed at post-secondary institutions from which BCC does not accept transfer credit, and independent study. An academic department may evaluate this learning for possible college credit and course equivalency through an appropriate method, including but not limited to the following: syllabi/documentation review, industry certification review, departmental challenge exam, or portfolio review.
7. **Summer Credit Limit**  
The issue is that we do not have one, except for probation students, and they mostly registered for too many before the grades and academic standing were in. So we want to add one, no more than one course per session. Thoughts? Alex Ott

## 8. Valedictorian/Salutatorian

Ott/Powers

Just when we thought we had one thing that actually worked...

So a student who graduates in January, has an advantage over a

June graduates, if we get to the criteria of A+ grades earned.

AND! How do we handle CR and NC Covid Grading Policy for Val/Sal?

### Current Codification

#### 11.7 Graduation Honors

- a. It is generally recognized that the academic honor of valedictorian or salutatorian is reserved to students who have accomplished the highest academic achievements in their graduating class. The college commencement committee (which is open to both faculty and staff) shall be responsible for the selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian. Recommendations to the commencement committee regarding the selection of the valedictorian and salutatorian shall be made by a subcommittee, to be comprised of members of the commencement committee as well as the CAS chair or designee.
  - b. In making their selections the committee shall follow the following criteria and process:
    - i. The valedictorian and salutatorian shall be those students having the highest and next highest academic index among those graduating.
    - ii. Calculation of the academic index for such determination shall include-grades for courses transferred, if any.
    - iii. Calculation of the academic index for June graduates shall include all courses taken exclusive of those currently being taken during their terminal Spring semester.
    - iv. Mid-term grades shall not be used to calculate the cumulative index for the purpose of selecting the valedictorian or salutatorian.
    - v. In those cases where the foregoing procedures do not result in a clear difference among competing individuals, the commencement committee shall consider the following additional factors to distinguish the scholarship performance of candidates\*
      - a) number of credits with grade of A+
      - b) GPA after recalculation that includes all grades earned at all colleges, including F grades (or other grades) that may have been forgiven by institutional policies
      - c) fewest number of transfer credits
      - d) number of credits with honors designation
- \*(Note that the above four items—a, b, c, d—are sequential and exclusive. That is, 5a shall be considered before 5b. If 5a distinguishes the candidates, no consideration of 5b is permissible, etc.)
- vi. In those cases where the foregoing procedures do not result in a clear difference among competing individuals, the commencement committee will name co-valedictorians and no salutatorian.
- a. Note: In the above paragraphs the term “shall” is construed to be mandatory while the term “may” is construed to be permissive.

#### Fall 2020 Dates: (actual meeting dates in bold)

October 14th (no meeting, classes follow a Monday schedule)

**October 28<sup>th</sup>**

**November 11<sup>th</sup>**

November 25<sup>th</sup> (no meeting, classes follow a Friday schedule)

**December 9<sup>th</sup>**

December 23<sup>rd</sup> (no meeting)

#### Very Tentative Spring Dates

February 10, 2021

February 24, 2021

March 10, 2021

March 24, 2021

April 14, 2021

April 28, 2021

May 12, 2021

#### Information Item: Grading Options for CollegeNow Courses

- Beginning Spring 2021: BCC CollegeNow grade shall be limited to the following: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, W, and NC.
- NC grades assigned for CollegeNow students do not count toward the Freshman Forgiveness policy.

#### Rationale:

University policy indicates that “All college-credit coursework earned through College Now will count towards students’ academic standing (i.e. GPA) if they matriculate into a degree program at the same CUNY college from where they participated in College Now” (5/6/15 Memorandum; Interim EVC/Provost Wrigley). This policy is beneficial to most students who complete courses through CollegeNow and matriculate at that same college. However, when students earn an F, WU, D, D+, and C- grade in a College Now course and then matriculate at the same college, this negatively affects their academic standing and financial aid eligibility.

CollegeNow courses are designed to give high school students an opportunity to earn college credit while in high school. They are not designed to disadvantage high school students. In a sense, they are analogous to AP courses/exams, which allow the student an opportunity to earn college credit (e.g., if the student earns at least a score of 3, roughly equivalent to a C grade). AP exams with a score of 2 or 1 do not negatively impact a student’s GPA, academic standing, or financial aid eligibility.

Per discussion with University CollegeNow Director, Ljubica Depovic, other CUNY campuses have implemented a number of solutions to this problem. Some campuses run a Registrar process that converts all CollegeNow grades of C- or lower to an “NC” after the grades are posted. Others, including LaGuardia and Queensborough, limit the grades a CollegeNow faculty member can assign, as we propose to do at BCC. In fact, CUNY First already has a CollegeNow designated grade scheme that reflects this proposal.

Senate Committees  
Number of Seats on a Committee

The proposal (as I understand it): The proposal seeks to amend the governance plan to set membership on each standing committee of the Senate to include: “one representative to be elected by each department.”

Background: Currently three committees have representatives from each academic department (Academic Standing, Curriculum and CIPD) while the remaining seven committees (Executive, Governance and Elections, Space, Facilities and Physical Plant, Community Events, V.P.s and Deans and Academic Freedom) do not. The proposed new Diversity Committee which went to referendum in the Spring but which has yet to be formally established does provide for one member from each Department.

The seven committees affected by this proposal each have varying numbers of faculty/instructional staff representatives elected by the Faculty Council or the faculty at-large. I refer you to the Governance Plan itself for more specifics on this.

The proposal was first made at the last face-to-face Senate meeting last year and due to the move to virtual meetings, further action was postponed until this year. I have to reason to believe that it will be reintroduced at the Senate this term and be referred to the Governance and Elections Committee for consideration. If it does so, the Committee will be required to consider it and report its recommendations to the Senate within 60 days of the submission to it. Thus, time being of the essence, I therefore ask that you place this matter on your agenda for discussion and comment and let me know your committee’s reactions by late October.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Franklin Moore, Chair  
Committee on Governance and Elections

## COLLEGENOW Grading Schema – Proposed

### Information Item: Grading Options for CollegeNow Courses

- Beginning Spring 2021: BCC CollegeNow grade shall be limited to the following: A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, and NC.
- Retroactive application of policy, at the request of the student: The BCC Registrar may convert CollegeNow grades other than A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, and C to a grade of NC.
- NC grades assigned for CollegeNow students do not count toward the Freshman Forgiveness policy.

### Rationale:

University policy indicates that “All college-credit coursework earned through College Now will count towards students’ academic standing (i.e. GPA) if they matriculate into a degree program at the same CUNY college from where they participated in College Now” (5/6/15 Memorandum; Interim EVC/Provost Wrigley). This policy is beneficial to most students who complete courses through CollegeNow and matriculate at that same college. However, when students earn an F, WU, D, D+, and C- grade in a College Now course and then matriculate at the same college, this negatively affects their academic standing and financial aid eligibility.

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Per discussion with University CollegeNow Director, Ljubica Depovic, other CUNY campuses have implemented a number of solutions to this problem. Some campuses run a Registrar process that converts all CollegeNow grades of C- or lower to an “NC” after the grades are posted. Others, including LaGuardia and Queensborough, limit the grades a CollegeNow faculty member can assign, as we propose to do at BCC. In fact, CUNY First already has a CollegeNow designated grade scheme that reflects this proposal.