

BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

of the City University of New York

Committee on Academic Standing

Minutes of February 24, 2021 (web conference [Zoom])

Present (20): Yeury Aguero (Student), Gregory Cobb (Soc Sc), Laurel Cummins (World Lang), Teresa Fisher (CommAS), Kenneth Flowers (SGA), Andrew Fraser (Student), Janet Heller (HPER), Paul Jajairam (Bus), Noah Jampol (Eng), Mehdi Lejmi (Math), Eugene Mananga (Eng Phy Tech), Octavio Melendez (Adv, OAA), Aisen Mercado (Student), Stephen Powers (Edu), Wladyslaw Roczniak (Hist), Vivian Rodriguez (Nurs), Enyuan Shang (Bio), Dickens St. Hilaire (Chem), Karen Thomas (Registrar; *left early*), James Watson (Library)

Present Alternates: Carlos Cruz (CommAS), Julio Garay (Chem, *arrived at 3:34 pm*), Ivan Horozov (Math), Edward Lehner (Edu), Anita Rivers (Registrar -- seated), Marjaline Vizcarrando (Soc Sc)

Guests: Cheryl Byrd (Appeals Agent), Jessica Cabrera (ASAP), Cynthia S. Espinal (CD), Leidy Pichardo (CD), Alexander Ott (OAA)

Absent/Excused: Elizabeth Asemota (SGA), Anthony Gatto (A&M)

1. **Call to Order:** At 2:05 P.M., meeting called to order by S. Powers. The meeting was recorded.
2. **P/NC Grading:** Members were asked to bring to their departments the idea of expanding the P/NP policy beyond 6 credits and/or other modifications for the spring 2021 semester (or perhaps longer, if online teaching continues in the fall 2021 semester). Questions were asked and discussion ensued. Questions included if the policy is modified, how many credits allowed, would previous usage be included in the count, and would students be able to use the policy again in the future? When does a student have to submit the request by? The last day of the semester is the answer. Would the P/NP impact financial aid? A “P” is an “earned” grade so counts towards a student’s progress. For a student failing a class, is it better to withdraw or take an NP (NC) with respect to financial aid? Both of those options do hurt a student in terms of rate of progress, but not in terms of overall GPA. Will having “P” and “NC” grades on one’s transcript hurt for transfer into other schools? Not for CUNY schools, but it can for non-CUNY schools as well as specific programs (e.g., Nursing) although it’s unclear what the “COVID-19” effect will be for how transcripts are interpreted during the pandemic. The proposal is to remove the 2-course limit for the Spring 2021 semester only. If approved, a sub-committee will meet today to figure out a credit/course limit. Of the 19 members present: 11 aye (T. Fisher, N. Jampol, K. Flowers, Y. Aguero, A. Fraser, S. Powers, O. Melendez, M. Lejmi, L. Cummins, D. St. Hilaire, J. Watson), 3 nay (V. Rodriguez, P. Jajairam, and A. Mercado), and 6 abstentions (W. Roczniak, G. Cobb, A. Rivers, J. Heller, E. Mananga, E. Shang). Lacking a majority in favor, the proposal did not pass. (*J. Garay arrived after the vote was taken.*)
3. **Approval of the February 10, 2021 minutes:** The minutes from 02/10/21 were approved by the 17 seated members present who were at that meeting. S. Powers asked the new members to introduce themselves.
4. **Student Appeals and Fall sub-committee dates:** C. Byrd reported there are 1196 appeals in the system, but many are duplicates: 825 were denied (many were duplicates) while 377 were granted. S. Powers, P. Jajairam, G. Cobb, and T. Fisher continue to review them.

5. **Report from Senate:** S. Powers reported that he presented the revised Valedictorian/Salutatorian proposal for the second time. No questions were asked by the Senate members. It will be presented at Senate on 2/25 for a vote.
6. **CUNY TOEFL:** (see handout) A. Ott spoke on a proposal to modify the minimum scores required on TOEFL, IELTS, Pearson Academic, and Duolingo for International applicants to BCC who were educated in a non-English environment and then add those scores to the codification (as 4.1.4). The rationale is to bring BCC into alignment with two peer colleges, Queensborough and Kingsborough, as our scores are currently more reflective of CUNY senior colleges. Our current scores have been in the catalog since 1992, but not codified. Discussion ensued. Is there a correlation between the scores and retention? Are these scores something that belong in the codification? It's a gray area. Members were asked to take the proposal back to their departments/members.
7. **New Business:** S. Powers noted he was at a meeting this morning where it was reported that Respondus, an online testing proctoring system, will be employed by CUNY. More details will be forthcoming.
8. **Adjournment:** 3:42 p.m.

Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is March 10, 2021. The remaining spring 2021 dates are March 24, April 14 and 28, May 12.

Respectfully Submitted,



Teresa A. Fisher, Recording Secretary

Handouts: agenda, TOEFL handout

[Recording:](#)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/bO6CGILPvUZQXUNBnAsr8xndmcd3LTRXXAJ8yOfW8qCX8MfK6E7d65zoHkcBxEbB.qQjyqyzUaoDQvmH5>

Passcode: 87TLS*r!

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDING

February 24, 2021 - 2:00 – 4:00

Topic: CAS 2/10/2021

Stephen Powers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83738154420>

Meeting ID: 837 3815 4420

AGENDA

- 1. Call to Order and Announcements** Steve Powers
A: Welcome new SGA and student representatives
- 2. Approval of Minutes from 2/10/21** Teresa Fisher
- 3. Student Appeals** Cheryl Byrd
a. Appeals through 2/21/21
- 4. Valedictorian/Salutatorian** Jaijairam, et al
Presented to College Senate on 12/20/20
No questions – so once again thank you for your communication to departments and colleagues – goes back to Senate 2/25
- 5. From the Desk of the EVC.... P/NC grading (see attachments)** Steve Powers
a. Discussion
b. Vote
- 6. CUNY TOEFL (see below)** Alex Ott
a. Document is from CUNY, currently TOEFL is not codified, so we will be adding as 4.1.4

Tentative Spring Dates

March 10, 2021

March 24, 2021

April 14, 2021

April 28, 2021

May 12, 2021

Revision: To modify the minimum score required on TOEFL, IELTS, Pearson Academic, and Duolingo for International applicants to BCC who were educated in a non-English environment.

| <i>From:</i> | <i>To:</i> |
|--|--|
| Internet-Based TOEFL: 61 Paper-Based TOEFL: 500 IELTS Academic Level: 6 Pearson Academic: 44 Duolingo: 85 Policy location: CUNY webpage comparing College TOEFL/IELTS/PTE/Duolingo Scores; https://www.cuny.edu/admissions/undergraduate/apply/toefl/ | Internet-Based TOEFL: <u>53</u> Paper-Based TOEFL: <u>475</u> IELTS Academic Level: <u>5.5</u> Pearson Academic: <u>41</u> Duolingo: <u>80</u> |

Effective: Fall 2021

Note: The Current BCC Catalog indicates the following on p. 20: “Students who were educated in a language other than English are required to take the Test of English as a Foreign Language exam (TOEFL) and obtain a minimum TOEFL score of 500 on the paper-based exam or 61 on the Internet based exam. A score of five or higher on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exam is also acceptable.” This language will be updated to reflect the new requirements indicated in the table above.

Rationale:

BCC’s minimum scores on TOEFL and similar exams, as reflected on the CUNY webpage, are outliers compared with peer community colleges. Our scores are more reflective of those found at a CUNY senior college and are identical to those required at City College and Hunter. The changes proposed bring BCC into alignment with two peer colleges, Queensborough and Kingsborough. Note that, after this change, we will still have higher requirements than BMCC, LaGuardia, and Hostos. Currently, our International (F-1) student population is small (40-50 students), but very successful academically at BCC, as an analysis of GPAs demonstrates: Our F-1 students have a significantly higher average GPAs than our domestic students (3.12 vs. 2.64 on average over the past three years). This change will open BCC to more international students while still maintaining standards needed to ensure that students admitted have the skills to succeed.

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Appendix A: CUNY Webpage Comparing College TOEFL/IELTS/PTE/Duolingo Scores

CUNY: TOEFL / IELTS / PTE/Duolingo Scores
Comparison

Applicants on a temporary visa who were educated in a non-English environment are asked to submit results from TOEFL, IELTS, PTE or Duolingo. This is one of several academic components evaluated during admission review. For more information, visit our [How to Apply page](#).

| Four-Year Colleges | Internet-Based TOEFL | Paper-Based TOEFL | IELTS Academic Level | Pearson Academic | Duolingo |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Baruch College | 80 | 550 | 6.5 | 53 | 105 |
| Brooklyn College | 61 | 500 | 6 | 44 | 85 |
| The City College of New York | 61 | 500 | 6 | 44 | 85 |
| College of Staten Island | 45 | 450 | 5 | 39 | 75 |
| Hunter College | 61 | 500 | 6 | 53 | 85 |
| John Jay College of Criminal Justice | 61 | 500 | 6 | 53 | 85 |
| Lehman College | 61 | 500 | 6 | 53 | 85 |
| Medgar Evers College | 52 | 470 | 5.5 | 41 | 80 |
| New York City College of Technology | 61 | 500 | 6 | 44 | 85 |
| Queens College | 61 | 500 | 6 | 44 | 85 |
| York College | 61 | 500 | 6 | 44 | 85 |
| School of Professional Studies | 80 | 550 | 6.5 | 53 | 105 |
| School of Labor and Urban Studies | 80 | 550 | 6.5 | 53 | 105 |
| Community Colleges | | | | | |
| Borough of Manhattan Community College | 45 | 450 | 5 | 39 | 80 |
| Bronx Community College | 61 | 500 | 6 | 44 | 85 |
| Hostos Community College* | — | — | — | — | |
| Kingsborough Community College | 53 | 475 | 5.5 | 41 | 80 |
| LaGuardia Community College | 45 | 450 | 5 | 39 | 75 |
| Queensborough Community College | 53 | 475 | 5.5 | 41 | 80 |

*Hostos Community College does not require students to submit TOEFL/IELTS/PTE/Duolingo scores for admission.

Source: <https://www.cuny.edu/admissions/undergraduate/apply/toefl/>

Appendix B: BCC International vs. Domestic Student GPAs

GPA Comparison of BCC International (F1) Students with Domestic Students

| Term | Group | N | Avg. GPA |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------|-------------|
| 01-Feb-18 | Domestic | 10420 | 2.53 |
| 01-Feb-18 | F1 | 56 | 2.89 |
| 01-Jun-18 | Domestic | 3348 | 2.76 |
| 01-Jun-18 | F1 | 19 | 3.23 |
| 01-Sep-18 | Domestic | 10472 | 2.62 |
| 01-Sep-18 | F1 | 47 | 3.11 |
| 01-Feb-19 | Domestic | 9830 | 2.59 |
| 01-Feb-19 | F1 | 52 | 3.06 |
| 01-Jun-19 | Domestic | 3376 | 2.77 |
| 01-Jun-19 | F1 | 17 | 3.50 |
| 01-Sep-19 | Domestic | 9985 | 2.63 |
| 01-Sep-19 | F1 | 55 | 3.22 |
| 01-Feb-20 | Domestic | 9455 | 2.60 |
| 01-Feb-20 | F1 | 55 | 3.15 |
| 01-Jun-20 | Domestic | 3402 | 2.87 |
| 01-Jun-20 | F1 | 17 | 3.45 |
| 01-Sep-20 | Domestic | 8330 | 2.72 |
| 01-Sep-20 | F1 | 40 | 3.00 |
| Total Domestic | | 68618 | 2.64 |
| Total F1 | | 358 | 3.12 |

Source: BCC Office of Institutional Research 1/28/21