BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE
of the City University of New York
Committee on Academic Standing
Minutes of March 10, 2021 (web conference [Zoom])

Present: Yeury Aguero (Student), Elizabeth Asemota (SGA), Gregory Cobb (Soc Sc), Laurel Cummins (World Lang), Teresa Fisher (CommAS), Kenneth Flowers (SGA), Andrew Fraser (Student), Anthony Gatto (A&M), Janet Heller (HPER), Paul Jaijairam (Bus, *left at 3:18pm*), Noah Jampol (Eng), Mehdi Lejmi (Math), Eugene Mananga (Eng Phy Tech), Octavio Melendez (Adv, OAA), Aisen Mercado (Student; *left meeting around 2:30pm*), 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), Anita Rivers (Registrar -- seated), Marjaline Vizcarrando (Soc Sc)
Guests: Cheryl Byrd (Appeals Agent), Jessica Cabrera (ASAP), Howard Clampman (Bus; *left early*), Cynthia S. Espinal (CD), Jordi Getman-Eraso (History; *left early*), Leidy Pichardo (CD), Alexander Ott (OAA)
Absent/Excused:

1. **Call to Order:** At 2:04 P.M., meeting called to order by S. Powers. The meeting was recorded.
2. **Minimum 2.0 GPA requirement for online classes:** J. Getman Eraso presented a proposal to eliminate the minimum 2.0 GPA requirement for online classes. S. Powers reminded the members that modifying the minimum GPA requirement for online classes had been discussed by this committee immediately prior to moving to fully online learning due to the pandemic (see agenda for that version). He also reminded that, as new students have no GPA when they begin at BCC, they are ineligible to take online courses under the current codification. Powers suggested, however, that rather than revisiting that proposal, 8.2.7 simply be eliminated from the codification. Getman-Eraso reminded that when the 8.2.7 codification was put in place 11 years ago, there wasn't the level of support for online learning that exists now. Discussion ensued. Members were asked to bring this proposal to eliminate the 2.0 minimum GPA to their departments to discuss.
3. **Approval of the February 24, 2021 minutes**: The minutes from 02/24/21 were approved by the 19 seated members present who were at that meeting.
4. **Student Appeals and Fall sub-committee dates**: C. Byrd reported there are 1230 appeals in the system, but many are duplicates: 849 were denied (many were duplicates) while 381 were granted. Byrd noted the system is being updated to prevent duplicate submissions. S. Powers, P. Jaijairam, G. Cobb, and T. Fisher continue to review them. V. Rodriguez, N. Jampol, and M. Lehmi have joined the online sub-committee.
5. **Report from Senate:** S. Powers reported that he presented the revised Valedictorian/Salutatorian proposal for the third time to the Senate. It was approved.
6. **CUNY TOEFL:** (see agenda) Discussion continued regarding the 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). Members who were able to talk to their colleagues reported back that their departments appeared to be in favor of the modification.

S. Powers called for a vote to approve the policy change and adding it to 4.1.4 of the codification. The proposal passed (1 abstain, 0 nay, 17 or 19 aye; *after the vote, we discovered 2 more people had left the meeting and it's unclear if they were seated members or guests*).

7. **Adjournment**: 3:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa A. Fisher, Recording Secretary

Handouts: agenda

Recording:
https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/aBdtKYBbdanwojDPMDd7tGXJcTy4ligk5OgH_cY3P6LK4VZnV2awG4TLfpwOBPEr.BImU4Eiu64kjrmYg
Passcode: i#K4%XCI

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COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDING
March 10, 2021 - 2:00 – 4:00

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Topic: CAS 3/10/2021
Stephen Powers is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89498145618
Meeting ID: 894 9814 5618

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AGENDA

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1. **Call to Order and Announcements**   Steve Powers

2. New Item, that was an old item a year ago….   Jordi Getman
   The requirement that a student have a 2.0 in order to register for   (guest)
   an online class. See below

3. **Approval of Minutes from 2/24/21**   Teresa Fisher

4. **Student Appeals**   Cheryl Byrd
   a.   Appeals through 3/7/21

5. **Valedictorian/Salutatorian**   Jaijairam, et al
   Presented to College Senate on 12/20/20
   Presented for the second time to Senate 2/25, passed, no discussion
   You have no idea how unusual this is….

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 24, 2021
April 14, 2021
April 28, 2021
May 12, 2021

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Proposed Changes to Academic Policy re: Enrollment in Online/Hybrid
Revised Options
<mark>**4/1/20**</mark>

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Context: As several departments that offer hybrid and asynchronous sections reported low enrollment and cancelled sections, a CAS review and possible action was requested. Per conversation at CAS this semester, it is clear that there is departmental opposition to eliminating all GPA minimums for fully online courses. Most departments that offer asynchronous sections reported a desire to retain at least some limitation on enrollment in on-line courses. The proposal seeks to allow proficient new students to register, and those students who are not in good academic standing would have limited registration options.

Proposed: Eliminate 2.0 minimum GPA requirement for hybrid, allowing all eligible students to register in these sections; retain it for fully online with an exception for proficient new students.

Proposed: Revise BCC academic policy regarding minimum GPA to take online/hybrid courses by eliminating the GPA requirement for hybrid, retaining the 2.0 minimum for fully online courses only. Allow new students with no GPA who are CUNY proficient in English/math to enroll in fully online.
This proposal would result in the following:
(1) Hybrid would now be open to all students, including students with GPA <2.0 and first time freshmen/transfers, who have no GPA, and (2) fully online would remain closed to students with GPA <2.0 and first-time freshmen/transfers, who have no GPA <u>unless</u> they are found CUNY proficient in English and math. The proposed new language also makes the appeal option explicit.

Current Codification:	Proposed Revised Codification:
8.2.7 Distance Learning Courses a. *Students registering in online ~~(hybrid, blended, or asynchronous) courses~~ must have a minimum GPA of 2.0.*	*8.2.7 Distance Learning Courses* a. *Students registering in <u>fully</u> online courses must have a minimum GPA of 2.0. <u>New students with no GPA may register for fully online if they are CUNY proficient in English and math. Exceptions to this policy are allowed upon appeal to academic department chair or designee.</u>*

Effective Semester: <mark>Fall 2020</mark>
Rationale: Remote learning is increasingly common in higher education, even before the COVID-19 pandemic. Remote learning modalities (hybrid and fully online) allow BCC students, many of whom have extensive work and family commitments, to pursue their education with more schedule flexibility. This revised policy will improve access opportunities for BCC students, including new students who have demonstrated no developmental need. Additionally, it moves BCC closer to the most common policy in CUNY community colleges: no GPA minimums for online/hybrid (only one peer in CUNY has minimum GPA requirements for hybrid/online). Making the appeal option explicit is important because students who wish to enroll in a fully online course should be aware that such an appeal is possible.

<u>Revision</u>: 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.

From:	*To:*
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.

<u>Rationale</u>:
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.