

## BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

of the City University of New York

### Committee on Academic Standing

Minutes of February 9, 2022 (web conference [Zoom])

**Present:** Rasheen Allen (Bio), Laurel Cummins (World Lang), Teresa Fisher (CommAS), Anthony Gatto (A&M), LaChoy Harris (Stu), Janet Heller (HPER), Kamal Ismail (Chem), Paul Jajairam (Bus), Noah Jampol (Eng), Mehdi Lejmi (Math), Eugene Mananga (Eng Phy Tech), Octavio Melendez (Adv, OAA), Stephen Powers (Edu), Elena Robin (SGA; 2:22 arrival, left before 2:45pm, back at 3:06pm), Wladyslaw Roczniak (Hist), Marjaline Vizcarrondo (Soc Sc), James Watson (Library)

**Present Alternates:** Gregory Cobb (Soc Sc), Carlos Cruz (CommAS), Michael Hodges (HPER), Ivan Horozov (Math), Edward Lehner (Edu), Anita Rivers (Reg) – seated, Soosairaj Therese (Chem)

**Guests:** Cheryl Byrd (Appeals Agent), Jessica Cabrera (ASAP), Cynthia Suarez-Espinal (CD), Alexander Ott (OAA)

**Absent/Excused:** Angel Calderon (Stu), Kenneth Flowers (SGA), Sierra Moncayo (Stu), Vivian Rodriguez (Nurs), Karen Thomas (Reg)

1. **Call to Order:** At 2:04 P.M., meeting called to order by S. Powers. The meeting was recorded.
2. **Approval of the December 8, 2021, minutes:** The minutes from 12/08/21 were approved as amended by the 15 seated members present who were at that meeting. *E. Robin arrived after the vote.*
3. **Student Appeals:** C. Byrd reported there were 171 appeals: 89 denied, 79 granted, and 3 are in review. The granted appeals are being adjusted by the Registrar while the students whose appeals were denied have been notified. Members voted to approve the granted appeals as approved by the sub-committee. The vote was approved unanimously by all seated members present.
4. **Changes to the codification:** S. Powers updated on the changes that were approved by the Board of Trustees and made to the codification (see agenda). The codification was updated and will be uploaded to the BCC website. Many of the changes were related to changes necessitated by the CUNY uniform grade policy memo from May 2021.
5. **Dean's List and President's List Revisions:** A Ott updated the members on the proposed changes, which have changed significantly from the previous proposal based on members' feedback (see agenda). The Dean's List for graduation and the President's List for graduation are recommended for elimination as they are not being used. Additionally, the creation of graduation honors notation to be placed on the transcript is proposed by the sub-committee. Discussion ensued. Departments were asked to return the proposal to their departments for discussion.
6. **The WU grade:** T. Fisher presented concerns raised in her department about the WU grade since the May 2021 CUNY uniform grade policy memo (see agenda). S. Powers added that the phrase "completely stopped attending" is also problematic as a student could miss most of the classes but show up the last day of class and then they would no longer have stopped attending. O. Melendez reminded that students now also have the ability to withdraw officially until the last day of class, which also complicates the situation. K. Ismail noted that

bullet point 6 under 8.3.1bi says “a faculty member”, which is further confusing as it doesn’t specify the student must speak to the faculty member attached to the class in question. Discussion ensued including a discussion of the CR/NC COVID-19 grades and their impact on students. While the CR/NC was helpful for students for students’ GPA, it could have longer-standing ramifications dealing with external agencies and transfer institutions. In order to address the issue, a small sub-committee could be formed or feedback could be sought from departments first before moving forward with changes, if any. T. Fisher will lead that sub-committee with P. Jaijairam, O. Melendez, and R. Allen also serving on it.

7. **New Business:** S. Powers reported on the recommendation from a sub-committee that met in January regarding a student who appealed the result of an academic grade appeal under the grounds that the appeal process was not correctly followed by the World Languages department. Upon review, the sub-committee agreed that the process had not been followed and recommended the department hear the appeal again. Members voted to approve the sub-committee’s recommendation. The recommendation was approved unanimously by all seated members present.

8. **Adjournment:** 3:24 p.m.

Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Spring 2022 dates: 2/23, 3/9, 3/23, 4/13, 4/27, and 5/11.

Respectfully Submitted,



Teresa A. Fisher,  
Recording Secretary

Handouts: agenda

Recording:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yhibCAOvg0Gm6hMM85nY891LLgv4BoQCadPiJtWAqr2YdSypTqWXXxjAHNc7TtGT.wVPP2Ax0GRkd\\_3b](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/yhibCAOvg0Gm6hMM85nY891LLgv4BoQCadPiJtWAqr2YdSypTqWXXxjAHNc7TtGT.wVPP2Ax0GRkd_3b) (Passcode: 6cZ@UQTC)

## COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC STANDING

February 9, 2021: 2:00 – 4:00

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87478820734>

### AGENDA

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| <b>1. Call to order</b>  | Steve Powers     |
| <b>2. Approval of Minutes from 12/08/2021</b>  | Teresa Fisher    |
| <b>3. Student Appeals</b>  |                  |
| a. Report  | Cheryl Byrd      |
| <b>4. Changes to Codification</b> (see the end)  | Steve Powers     |
| <b>5. Revised Dean's List and President's List Revisions</b><br>(yes, revised revisions) see below | Alex and Octavio |
| <b>6. The WU grade</b> (see above the below)   | Teresa Fisher    |
| <b>7. New Business</b>   |                  |

#### Tentative Spring Dates:

If you will not be serving, please let Teresa and/or I know, and please give these dates to your replacement.

February 23, 2022

March 9, 2022

March 23, 2022

April 13, 2022

April 27, 2022

May 11, 2022

## Concern re Fall 2021 revised WU policy:

Here is the new policy (8.3.1b):

### a. WU Grade Policy

- i. As per the May 2021 Uniform Grade Glossary, Policies, and Guidelines CUNY memo: A grade of "WU" is to be assigned to students who participated at least once in an academically related activity, completely stopped attending at any time before the culminating academic experience of the course, i.e., final exam, final paper, etc., and did not officially withdraw. Academically related activities include, but are not limited to.
  - physically attending a class where there is an opportunity for direct interaction between the instructor and students.
  - submitting an academic assignment.
  - taking an exam, an interactive tutorial or computer-assisted instruction.
  - attending a study group that is assigned by the school.
  - participating in an online discussion about academic matters and
  - initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a question about the academic subject studied in the course.
  - engaging in an online academically related activity or initiating contact with a faculty member to ask a course-related question. Logging into an online class is not sufficient, by itself, to demonstrate academic participation by the student.
- ii. As per that 2021 CUNY memo, effective Fall 2021, the WU grade will not have punitive impact on student's GPA. WU grade will continue to be used to denote Unofficial Withdrawal.
- iii. A WU grade should never be given in place of an 'F' grade. The 'F' grade is an earned grade based on poor performance and the student not meeting the learning objectives/outcomes of the course throughout the entire academic term/session. If the student has participated in an academically related activity at least once or if there is documented evidence of the student's participation in a course, and they have ceased participating in the course, at the end of the term, the unofficial withdrawal grade reported must be a "WU". When a student does not officially withdraw from a course and fails to complete the course requirements, the instructor assigns the "WU" grade on the final grade roster.

### Here are the concerns:

**Last part of 8.3.1b.iii says:** "When a student does not officially withdraw from a course and fails to complete the course requirements, the instructor assigns the "WU" grade on the final grade roster." It doesn't mention the culminating experience. That being said, I don't think you can pull that one sentence out on its own as it must be read in context with the rest of the language in that point. I believe the point of "iii" is to draw a distinction between an F and a WU. To read that last sentence on its own without the context of the sentence that comes before it is an inaccurate reading, I believe. But it is poor structure by CUNY. Until they fix it or we find a way to ameliorate it, I believe you cannot read those sentences separately in section "iii" without misinterpreting the meaning. Additionally, as it falls after section "i", I also think that "iii" has to be interpreted in the context of that first section. That it's what I assume is CUNY's attempt to add nuance to section "i" through an attempted clarification of F v. WU. Theoretically we can delete part "iii", but I don't know if the Board of Trustees would approve it since it's part of the revised CUNY policy. And we can't revise the language since it's their language. I'm not sure how we get around CUNY's language. About the only thing I can think of is adding a line of our own to "iii" that says something like "As a reminder, the WU does not mean the student hasn't completed some work in the class (at least one activity or they would have received a WN), but that they have not completed the culminating project which may be a final exam, a final project, or a final project. Students can withdraw from a class with a W up to the final day of regular classes (before the start of finals week). If they do not withdraw, but fail to complete the culminating experience, then the

WU may be the appropriate grade if they also stopped attending class up to and including the final class session.” Or even just add a bracket into that sentence: “When a student does not officially withdraw from a course and fails to complete the course requirements [which must include not completing the culminating experience be it a final exam, paper, or project], the instructor assigns the "WU" grade on the final grade roster.”

**Another question re culminating experience v. final exam:** Should there be clarification as to what the culminating experience is and its role in the WU? For most classes it is likely to be the final exam or a final project, but does that need to be more clearly articulated? If the policy said “final exam” and a class didn’t have one, a faculty member might think they couldn’t give a WU and would award a letter grade even if a student had stopped attending, had completed at least one academic-related activity, didn’t withdraw, and didn’t turn in the final paper/project because, in their mind, that didn’t meet WU requirements since it wasn’t a final exam the student missed.

**Revision:** To eliminate “Dean’s List for Graduation” and “President’s List for Graduation”. Add graduation honors at a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher.

**Effective:** Fall 2022

<p><b>Dean's List and President's List</b></p> <p><b>5.1. Eligibility for Dean's List</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students shall be eligible for inclusion on the Dean's List if they have been assigned academic grades for a minimum of twelve (12) college-level credits in a spring and/or fall semester with an average of 3.3 or higher.</li></ol> <p><b>5.2 Evaluation for Dean's List</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students shall be evaluated for the Dean's List upon successful completion of 12 or more college credits in a spring and/or fall semester.</li></ol> <p><b>5.3 Limitations governing Dean's List</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>No student <i>may be</i> included on the Dean's List more than six (6) times during his or her stay at the college.</li><li>A student with a grade of F, WU, or FIN shall not be eligible for that band. An INC or PEN grade must be completed before the start of the following spring and/or fall semester for a student to be considered for the Dean's List. A student with a Z grade shall not be considered until the Z grade is resolved.</li><li>Transfer credits are not applicable for Dean's List consideration. When a student transfers in courses from another school that student is given the credits for those courses but not the grades that were received.</li></ol>	<p><b>Dean's List and President's List</b></p> <p><b>5.1. Eligibility for Dean's List</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students shall be eligible for inclusion on the Dean's List if they have been assigned academic grades for a minimum of twelve (12) college-level credits in a spring and/or fall semester with an average of 3.3 or higher.</li></ol> <p><b>5.2 Evaluation for Dean's List</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students shall be evaluated for the Dean's List upon successful completion of 12 or more college credits in a spring and/or fall semester.</li></ol> <p><b>5.3 Limitations governing Dean's List</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>No student <i>may be</i> included on the Dean's List more than six (6) times during his or her stay at the college.</li><li>A student with a grade of F, WU, or FIN shall not be eligible for that band. An INC or PEN grade must be completed before the start of the following spring and/or fall semester for a student to be considered for the Dean's List. A student with a Z grade shall not be considered until the Z grade is resolved.</li><li>Transfer credits are not applicable for Dean's List consideration. When a student transfers in courses from another school that student is given the credits for those courses but not the grades that were received.</li><li></li></ol>
<p><b>5.4 Dean’s List for Graduation</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><del>To be considered for the Dean’s List at the time of graduation, a student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.3 or higher, with no PEN or INC grades.</del></li></ol>	<p><b>5.4 Eligibility for President’s List</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Students shall be eligible for inclusion on the President's List if they have been assigned academic grades for a minimum</li></ol>

### **5.5 Eligibility for President's List**

- a. Students shall be eligible for inclusion on the President's List if they have been assigned academic grades for a minimum of twelve (12) college-level credits in a spring and/or fall semester with an average of 3.7 or higher.

### **5.6 Evaluation for President's List**

- a. Students shall be evaluated for the President's List upon successful completion of 12 or more college credits in a spring and/or fall semester.

### **5.7 Limitations Governing President's List**

- a. A student who qualifies for the President's List in a given spring and/or fall semester or at graduation is not eligible to be on the Dean's List at the same time.
- b. No student may be included on the President's List more than six (6) times during his or her stay at the college.
- c. A student with a grade of F or WU shall not be eligible for that semester. An INC or PEN grade must be completed before the start of the following semester for a student to be considered for President's List. A student with a Z grade shall not be considered until the grade is resolved.

### **5.8 President's List for Graduation**

- ~~a. To be considered for the President's List at the time of graduation a student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.7 or higher, with no PEN or INC grades.~~

### **5.9 Part-Time Dean's List**

- a. Students shall be eligible for inclusion on the Part-time Dean's List if they have been assigned academic grades for a minimum of six (6) and up to eleven (11) college-level credits in a spring and/or fall semester with an average of 3.3 or higher.

### **5.10 Evaluation for Part-Time Dean's List**

of twelve (12) college-level credits in a spring and/or fall semester with an average of 3.7 or higher.

### **5.5 Evaluation for President's List**

- a. Students shall be evaluated for the President's List upon successful completion of 12 or more college credits in a spring and/or fall semester.

### **5.6 Limitations Governing President's List**

- a. A student who qualifies for the President's List in a given spring and/or fall semester or at graduation is not eligible to be on the Dean's List at the same time.
- b. No student may be included on the President's List more than six (6) times during his or her stay at the college.
- c. A student with a grade of F or WU shall not be eligible for that semester. An INC or PEN grade must be completed before the start of the following semester for a student to be considered for President's List. A student with a Z grade shall not be considered until the grade is resolved.

### **5.7 Part-Time Dean's List**

- a. Students shall be eligible for inclusion on the Part-time Dean's List if they have been assigned academic grades for a minimum of six (6) and up to eleven (11) college-level credits in a spring and/or fall semester with an average of 3.3 or higher.

### **5.8 Evaluation for Part-Time Dean's List**

- a. Students shall be evaluated for the Part-time Dean's List upon successful completion of 6 to 11 college credits in a spring and/or fall semester.

### **5.9 Limitations governing Part-Time Student Dean's List**

- a. Students shall be evaluated for the Part-time Dean's List upon successful completion of 6 to 11 college credits in a spring and/or fall semester.

**5.44 Limitations governing Part-Time Student Dean's List**

- a. No student may be included on the Part-time Dean's List more than six (6) times during his or her stay at the college.
- b. A part-time student with a grade of F, WU, or FIN, or WF shall not be eligible. An INC or PEN grade must be completed before the start of the following spring and/or fall semester for a student to be considered for the Part-Time Dean's List. A student with a Z grade shall not be considered until the Z grade is resolved.
- c. Transfer credits are not applicable for the Part-Time Dean's List consideration. When a student transfers in courses from another school that student is given the credits for those courses but not the grades that were received.

**5.42 Part-Time President's List**

- a. Students shall be eligible for inclusion on the Part-Time President's List if they have been assigned academic grades for a minimum of six (6) and up to eleven (11) college-level credits in a spring and/or fall semester with an average of 3.7 or higher.

**5.43 Evaluation for Part-Time Student President's List**

- a. Students shall be evaluated for the Part-time President's List upon successful completion of 6 to 11 college credits in a spring and/or fall semester.

**5.44 Limitations governing Part-Time Student President's List**

- a. No student may be included on the Part-Time President's List more than six (6) times during his or her stay at the college.
- b. A part-time student with a grade of F, WU, or FIN, or WF shall not be eligible. An INC or PEN grade must be completed before the start of the following semester for a student to be considered for the Part-Time Student President's List. A part-time student with a Z grade shall not be considered until the Z grade is resolved.

- a. No student may be included on the Part-time Dean's List more than six (6) times during his or her stay at the college.
- b. A part-time student with a grade of F, WU, or FIN, or WF shall not be eligible. An INC or PEN grade must be completed before the start of the following spring and/or fall semester for a student to be considered for the Part-Time Dean's List. A student with a Z grade shall not be considered until the Z grade is resolved.
- c. Transfer credits are not applicable for the Part-Time Dean's List consideration. When a student transfers in courses from another school that student is given the credits for those courses but not the grades that were received.

**5.10 Part-Time President's List**

- a. Students shall be eligible for inclusion on the Part-Time President's List if they have been assigned academic grades for a minimum of six (6) and up to eleven (11) college-level credits in a spring and/or fall semester with an average of 3.7 or higher.

**5.11 Evaluation for Part-Time Student President's List**

- a. Students shall be evaluated for the Part-time President's List upon successful completion of 6 to 11 college credits in a spring and/or fall semester.

**5.12 Limitations governing Part-Time Student President's List**

- a. No student may be included on the Part-Time President's List more than six (6) times during his or her stay at the college.
- b. A part-time student with a grade of F, WU, or FIN, or WF shall not be eligible. An INC or PEN grade must be completed before the start of the following semester for a student to be considered for the Part-Time Student President's List. A part-time student with a Z grade shall not be considered until the Z grade is resolved.
- c. Transfer credits are not applicable for the Part-Time President's List consideration. When a student transfers in courses from another school that student is given the credits for those courses but not the grades that were received.



<p>c. Transfer credits are not applicable for the Part-Time President's List consideration. When a student transfers in courses from another school that student is given the credits for those courses but not the grades that were received.</p>	
	<p><b><u>11.9 Graduation Honors Notation</u></b>  <u>a. Students with a 3.7 or higher cumulative BCC GPA at the time of graduation shall receive a “with honors” notation on their transcript in recognition of their academic record of excellence.</u></p>

**Rationale:**

The “Dean’s List for Graduation” and “President’s List for Graduation” sections seem intended to refer to a separate honor to be awarded to a student upon graduation (though there is some ambiguity in the language). This separate honor has not been applied to student records in recent history and, therefore, should be removed.

The creation of a “Graduation Honors Notation” based on 3.7 or higher GPA will allow BCC to formally recognize those students with exceptional final cumulative GPAs. In particular, students who graduate with a BCC cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher will receive the notation of “with honors” on their transcript. This policy will bring BCC into alignment with most of its peer CUNY community colleges that have cumulative GPA-based graduation honors. Based on a review of recent data, it is likely that approximately 10 to 15% of BCC graduates in a given year will graduate “with honors.”

# The End

## Changes to the Codification:

- previously noted re 8.3.1.b
- 3.1.3b added
- 3.1.5a change made
- 4.4.1f added
- 4.4.3ai change made
- 4.5.3bi change made
- 8.1.7 added
- 8.3.1 changes made
- 8.3.3 deleted
- 8.6.1 updated
- 8.6.2 added plus updated numbering of the ones that followed it
- added 8.7.4c
- 8.8.2iv amended
- 8.5.1 Z grade deleted
- 4.2.4 changes made
- 8.2.4 changes made