Membership

Members of the Committee on Academic Standing during the 2016-2017 academic year included:

Fall 2016: Sally Buckley, Tripp Evans, Christina Riggs-Romaine, Scott Shumway, Alex Trayford (Chair), Steven Viveiros, Brandon White. Student representatives: Theoni Varoudaki, Luis Molina

Spring 2017: Sally Buckley, Tripp Evans, Shelly Leibowitz, Scott Shumway, Alex Trayford (Chair), Steven Viveiros, Brandon White. Student representatives: Alana Franklin, Sarah Langer

The Committee met 30 times during the 2016-2017 academic year and will meet two more times: Academic Review and the subsequent review of appeals. One sub-committee was formed: Appellate Subcommittee – Fall: Christine Riggs-Romaine, Scott Shumway. Spring: Tripp Evans, Scott Shumway.

Petitions for Academic Exceptions

As of May 10, 2017, the committee reviewed 377 petitions (1 less than 2015-2016), approving 96% (a 4% increase over last year), denying 4%. Frequent petitions presented to the Committee are:

- Petitions to carry a reduced course load (fewer than three classes) or to drop/withdraw from a class. This constituted 66% of all petitions received (a 19% increase over last year). Drops prior to the drop deadline have been approved, with advisor’s signature;
- Petitions to carry more than a 5.5 course load (most frequently approved with advisor/departmental support);
- Petitions for Off-Campus Study exceptions (a mix of both below the prerequisite GPA and waiver of Senior Residency);
- Late add/change in Pass/Grade/Fail option (most frequently denied);
- Foreign languages substitution (approved when presented with documentation and appropriate course substitutes);
- Petitions to add a course late (approved with instructor support);
- Retroactive withdrawal/drop of a course that the student did not actually take (approved when confirmed by the instructor);
- Early graduation (approved with documentation that all required coursework will be completed)

Academic Standing

The committee presented students for graduation in October 2016 and February 2017. The annual list in May is forthcoming.

The committee held an Academic Review meeting on January 4, 2017 to determine students placed on Academic Probation, removed from Academic Probation, Suspended, or Academically Dismissed, followed by an appeal meeting on January 12, 2017.

The committee reviewed 121 students. Following are the results from the meeting:

- 37 students were removed from probation
- 39 students were placed on probation
- 37 students were suspended
- 4 students continued on probation
- 4 students was academically dismissed

Twenty-one students appealed their suspension status, 11 were approved to return on probation for the spring 2017 semester, 11 petitions were denied. Two student appealed their dismissal status. One student was approved to return for the spring 2017 semester.

The spring semester Academic Review dates are to be determined.
Faculty Legislation

No changes to faculty legislation were presented.

Discussion Topics

The committee discussed a variety of topics, including:

- Discussion of approvals for course overloads.
- Brown University cross-registration course drop/withdrawal policy.
- Addition of statement on the CAS petition form requested by the Center for Global Education requiring international students to identify if they are dropping below full-time status. If that is the case, the committee will not consider their petition until they have a consultation with a member of the center.
- The Degree in Progress process and how to potentially handle (or not) petition requests to participate in commencement ceremonies as an exception to the long-standing policy/practice. The committee decided to bring the matter to the faculty in the fall semester 2017.

Scholarships/Grants

- The committee awarded Wheaton Foundation monies. The total awarded was $7500.

- Wheaton Honors: The committee selected two students as recipients of the A. Howard Meneely Prize – Ian Opaluch ’17 - $250.


Respectfully submitted,

Sally Buckley, Registrar
Tripp Evans, Art History
Shelly Leibowitz, Mathematics
Christina Riggs-Romaine, Psychology

Scott Shumway, Biology
Alex Trayford, Chair, Senior Associate Dean of Studies
Steven Viveiros, Dean of Advising and Academic Success
Brandon White, Associate Dean of Students

Students:
Alana Franklin
Sarah Langer
Luis Molina
Theoni Varoudaki