Academic Standing Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on December 12, 2022

Present: Dionne Miller (Academic Affairs), Erika Correa (ACE), Shannon Lund (Admissions), Ana Mora (Counseling), Caterina Almendral (ELA), Lilla Tőke, Chair (English), Andrew McFarland (Humanities), Alexandra Rojas (Library), Janet Gonzalez (Natural Sciences), Kyle Hollar-Gregory (Social Science), Derwent Dawkins (Registrar)

Meeting Start Time: 2:30 PM

Meeting End Time: 4:30 PM

New Member Welcome
1. The Committee welcomed new member Dionne Miller (Academic Affairs).

November Meeting Minutes
1. The Committee reviewed, updated, and approved the November 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Attendance Policy
1. The Committee members shared feedback from their Department members, and survey responses around the current attendance policy and proposed revisions.
2. Feedback varied by Department, with survey responses and some Committee member feedback reporting polarized views. These views included those who greatly supported a policy update, those who did not want any change, those who wanted a stricter more punitive policy, and those who believed there is no need for the policy. Feedback also included consideration of policy enforcement, concerns about how to take attendance without web attendance, and how the policy relates to the WU grade.
3. The Committee discussed varied feedback around the models, which leaned slightly towards the Lehman College model. Feedback also included concerns around the various models (e.g., those that felt the language of both models confuses attendance with participation).
4. The Committee discussed:
   a. Confusion between participation and attendance and the need to be able to consider both with attendance being one form of participation, the 15% attendance rate included in the current policy, and the connection of attendance to Academic Appeals.
   b. A revised policy and standards. The discussion centered on whether having different standards for the policy by Departments may be confusing to students versus having an overall policy for the College.

  c. Concerns about how faculty will take attendance, attendance connections to appeals, financial aid, and a reliable system which faculty could reference if asked to confirm a student's presence or absence.

5. The Committee agreed the attendance policy should be revised and discussed participation (e.g., with members noting it is important not to confuse attendance with participation), the importance of a clear policy for students, the history of the current attendance policy, how the policy is represented across Departments, and enforcement. Revision then focused on discussion of:

  a. Changing the language to include participation rather than only physical attendance given the wide variety of teaching modalities.

  b. Changing the language so that it is student facing rather than faculty facing.

  c. Ensuring faculty compliance with the policy.

  d. Giving flexibility to Departments/Programs to decide their own attendance policy based on Department and Program course needs and Departments or degree programs deciding requirements in consultation with Program Directors and Course Coordinators.

6. The Committee created the following revised policy draft.

  a. Class attendance and participation play a crucial role in the learning process and directly impact students' overall academic achievement. Therefore, students are expected to attend and participate in all class sessions regardless of modality. Departments or degree programs shall establish specific attendance requirements and those will appear on the course syllabus. Students must review individual course requirements in order to understand the effect their absences may have on the grade in a course.

7. The Committee voted to bring the revised policy language draft to the Senate for feedback.

ACTION ITEM: The Committee will bring the revised policy language draft to the Senate for feedback.

CUNY's Updated Policy on Cameras

1. Faculty should review CUNY's updated guidance on cameras: https://www.cuny.edu/coronavirus/academic-continuity/guidance-on-academic-continuity-to-campuses/#_Toc109302470

  a. Pedagogical need for cameras to be turned on should be communicated to students via course syllabi and CUNYfirst.

    i. These CUNYfirst updates may be sent to the Registrar by emailing scheduling@lagcc.cuny.edu to add them.

ACTION ITEM: The Committee will share the updated guidance with their respective Departments.

<u>Next ASC Meeting</u>
1. The January ASC meeting is canceled. The next ASC meeting will take place in February. During the next meeting, the Committee will discuss policies related to online courses.

Next Meeting: February 27, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Caterina Almendral, ELA Representative