Academic Standing Committee
Minutes of the Meeting on May 15, 2023

Present: Lilla Toke - English (Chair), Caterina Almendral - ELA, Dionne Miller - Academic Affairs, Nicole Lytle - Business and Technology, Lisa Silverman (alternate) - Social Sciences, Janet Gonzalez - Natural Sciences, Ana Mora - Wellness Center, Andrew McFarland - Humanities, Erika Correa - ACE.

Meeting Start Time: 2:30 PM
Meeting End Time: 4:30 PM

April Meeting Minutes

The Committee reviewed, updated, and approved the April 2023 meeting minutes by a vote of 7 – 0 with one amendment: the inclusion of the date when the attendance policy was approved by the College Senate. The motion was moved by C. Almendral and seconded by A. Rojas.

Chair's Report

1. Attendance Policy Implementation

The Chair met with Provost Gastic Rosado and Prof Michael Napolitano, Chair of the Chairs Council on May 12, 2023 to discuss implementation of the new attendance policy. D. Miller was also present in her capacity as associate dean. It was advised that departments may keep current policy for fall and develop new guidelines in the meantime. Prof Napolitano expressed that he was happy with the guidelines and promised to share and discuss with chairs. A detailed follow up email with new guidelines and a link to a Google doc with models from ASC was sent to Prof Napolitano and the chairs. The Chair will forward the email sent to chairs, which also contains the link to the Google doc, to ASC members.

0. Academic Integrity

CUNY has updated its academic policy to include the use of artificial intelligence (AI). LaGuardia's local policy is different: in the fall, the committee will discuss whether we should align with the CUNY policy. The chair will share the policy that has been voted on by CUNY University Faculty Council (UFC) as an FYI.

0. Voting members on ASC

The new LaGuardia governance plan outlines the membership and voting rights of all senate committees. The committee can determine if all members are voting members – the ASC will decide this matter in the fall.

1. **Using the ASC Website to Share Academic Policies with Students**

The Chair shared a one-pager developed by Loretta Capuano of the Student Information Center (SIC) used to explain the W grading policies to students that could be used as a model for explaining academic policies to students: visually appealing one-pager. D. Miller suggested that such handouts could be used for the website and shared with first year seminar instructors. A. McFarlane pointed out that handouts are good for all faculty. The chair will send the handout to J. Gonzalez and the committee will expand on this project in the fall

J. Gonzalez announced that students were making videos, a medium she thought was more engaging and effective for communicating with students. She solicited topics for website from the committee and the following were proposed:

    i. Grade policies: incomplete, W's, No credit
    ii. Repeat course policy
   iii. Attendance
   iv. Academic integrity
    v. Credit for prior learning
   vi. Academic appeals
  vii. Medical leave

2. **ASC Meeting and Membership Updates**
   a. It was agreed by all that the June meeting should be cancelled.
   b. Committee membership: Chair contacted Committee on Committees chair Charis Victory to find alternate and replacement members. Current members can also reach out directly to their department chairs but this should be last resort as the Senate would prefer to not include department chairs in selecting representatives. The Chair will reach out with copy to N. Lytle who wishes to be replaced.
   c. The Chair will send out meeting times and minute takers for the fall before the end of the semester.
   d. The Chair will be on sabbatical in Spring 2024 - will need someone to step in as chair.

3. **Academic Forgiveness Policy**

    The Chair shared the current language and the proposed revision to decrease the waiting period from 5 to 3 years and remove WU language since the grade no longer impacts GPA. The rationale: encourage students to return to LaGuardia rather than enroll in a different CUNY Discussion: E. Correa and D. Miller spoke in support of the revision; questions were raised about when the forgiveness is applied (A. Mora stated that students don't have to apply: once they are eligible upon readmission, it is applied); how financial aid is affected; how many students are affected; is the policy is being abused. The chair will request data to answer the questions. The issue was tabled till fall.

0. Data for Online Learning Policy Discussion

The Chair expressed concern that the data in the online committee's report ends at Fall 2021 (covers pre-pandemic and during pandemic) and is therefore not reflective of what we are currently doing. She proposed to ask for data for Fall 2021, spring 2022, fall 2022, spring 2023 which would cover post-pandemic period and the various course modalities that were implemented. J. Gonzalez suggested that we request the same data for the periods of interest so we can compare before, during and after the pandemic. The Chair then asked what kind of data should be requested and made some suggestions of her own.

Chair: Identified 5 modalities for which to request data: in person, asynchronous, synchronous, hybrid, other (to include hyflex, etc.). D. Miller pointed out that there are two types of hybrid: fully online synchronous/asynchronous and online/in-person that needs to be differentiated. Chair suggested we request the following data across all modality categories:
- Drop and withdrawal rates
- GPA average
- C and above, C and below rates
- Passing rates
- Student demographics
- GPA by credit range for each modality

D. Miller suggested that we first identify what question(s) we are trying to answer. The Chair suggested "what policies will support student success?" J. Gonzalez suggested we seek data to answer "Who is passing what course in what modality and when?". A. Mora suggested we also look at students who need math and English remediation. C. Almendral suggested that we also need to look at the effect of training, which is one of the recommendations in the report. The chair pointed out that data would be difficult to obtain since there is no formal training in place. The chair suggested that perhaps the first semester that a student takes an online course could be used as the training benchmark?

The aim is to have a policy by the end of next academic year.

New Business

C. Almendral asked that next academic year the committee take up the issue of adding an A+ grade to the possible grades that can be award. It was also suggested that we consider a policy limiting how many times students can withdraw from the same class.

Respectfully submitted,
Dionne Miller
Representative – Academic Affairs